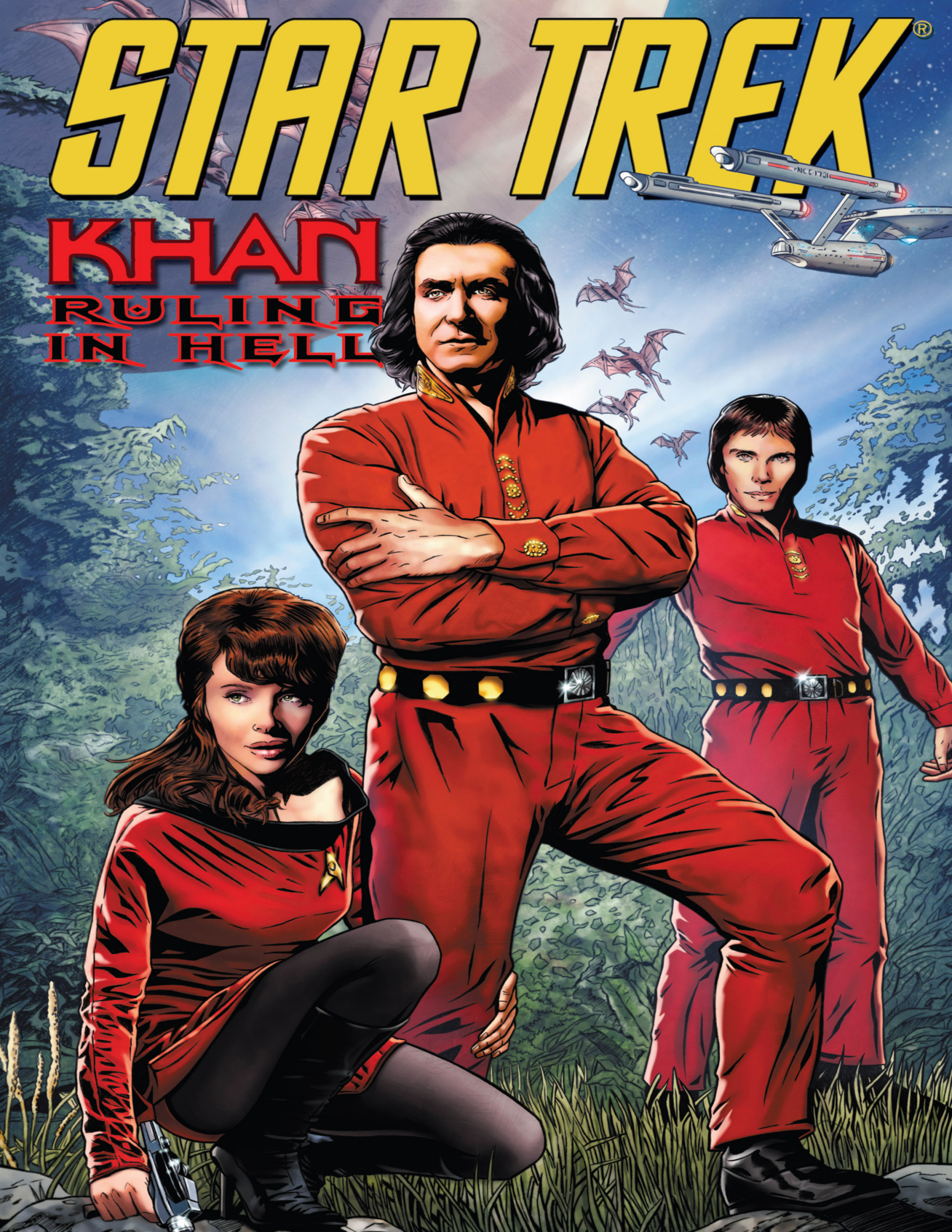
STAR TREK®
KHAN
RULING IN HELL

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RULING IN HELL

WRITTEN BY
SCOTT & DAVID TIPTON

ART BY
FABIO MANTOVANI

COLORS BY
FABIO MANTOVANI
AND CHIARA CINABRO (CH. 1 AND 2)

LETTERING BY
NEIL UYETAKE

ORIGINAL EDITS BY
SCOTT DUNBIER

COLLECTION EDITS BY
JUSTIN EISINGER

COLLECTION DESIGN BY
NEIL UYETAKE

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Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, Chief Operating Officer
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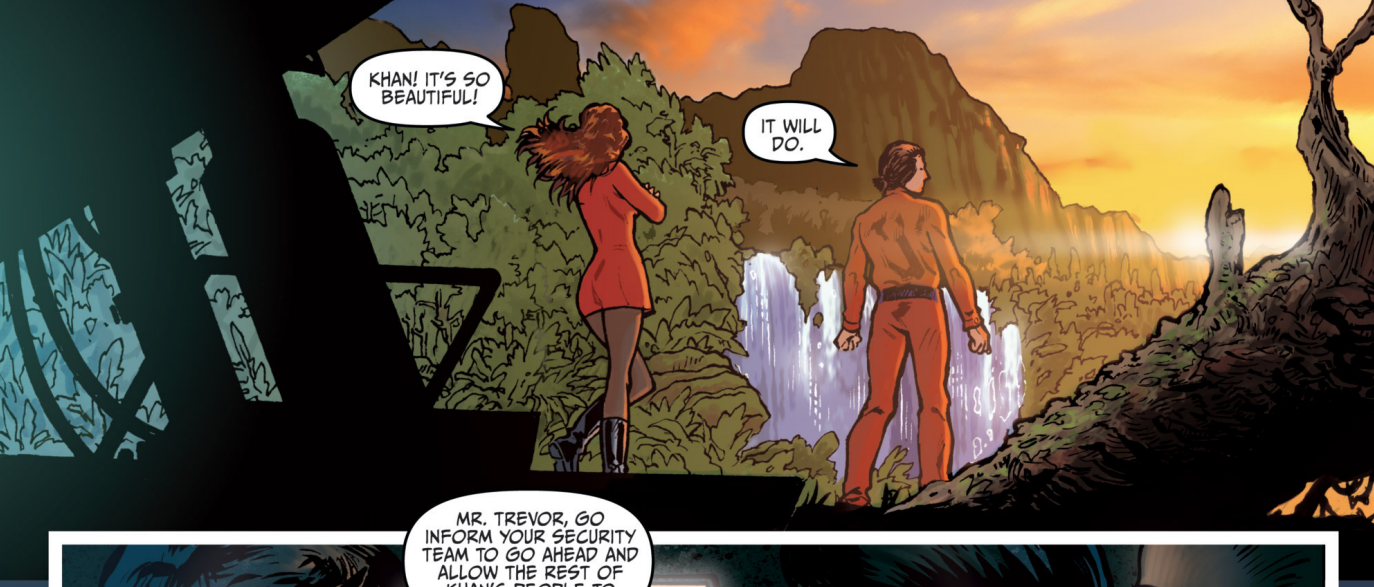
1
CHAPTER
FSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!

WE'VE ARRIVED.
MOBY DICK

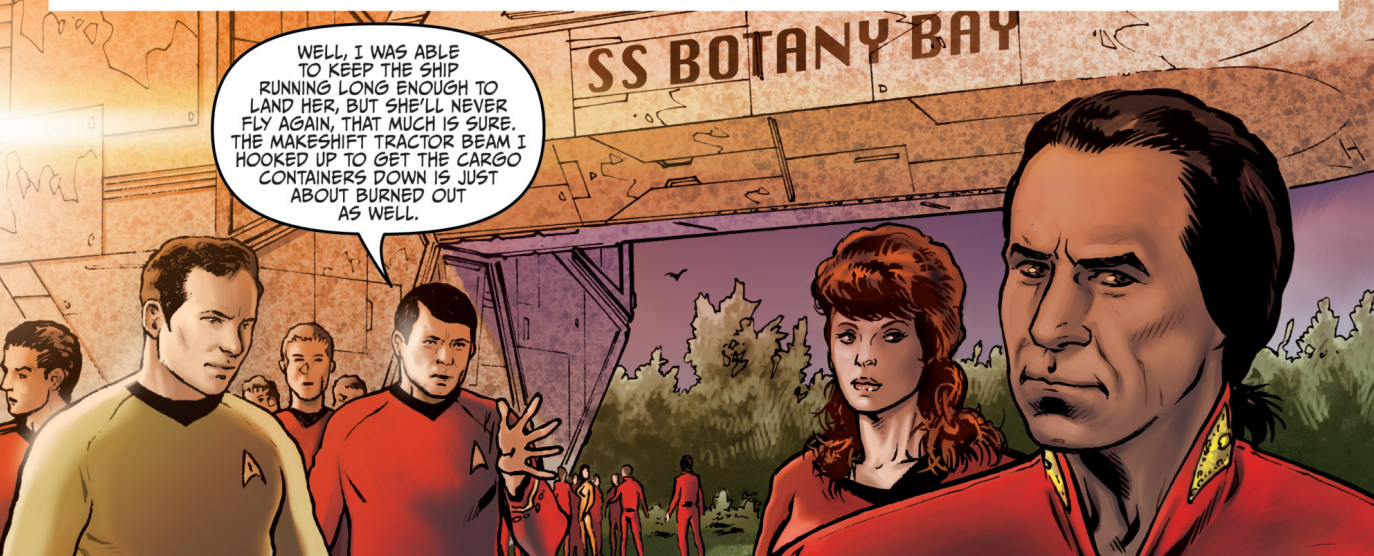
FSssssSHH!
I'LL ALLOW YOU THE HONOR, SIR.
GRACIOUS TO THE LAST, CAPTAIN. I THANK YOU.


KHAN! IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
IT WILL DO.

MR. TREVOR, GO INFORM YOUR SECURITY TEAM TO GO AHEAD AND ALLOW THE REST OF KHAN'S PEOPLE TO EXIT THE SHIP.
AYE, SIR.

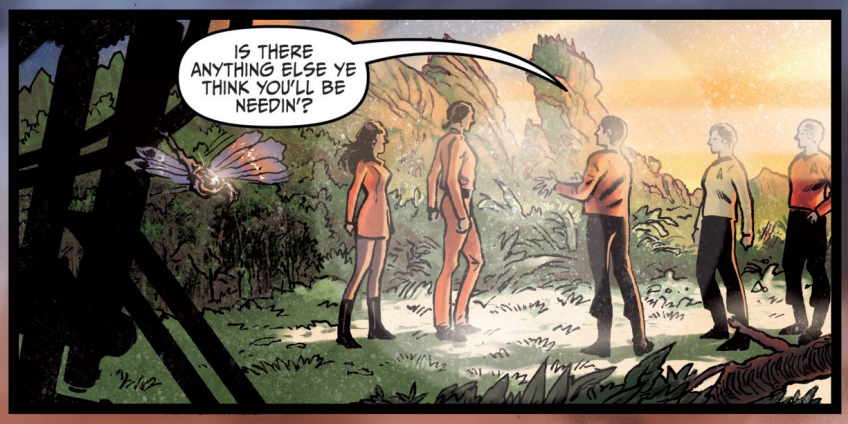
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, CAPTAIN?
JUST LETTIN' HIM GO, AFTER WHAT HE DID?
AND THE ALTERNATIVE IS BETTER, MR. SCOTT? YOU SAW HOW QUICKLY HE WAS ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE *ENTERPRISE*.
WHO'S TO SAY A REEDUCATION CENTER WOULDN'T BE JUST AS EASY? OR A STARBASE, FOR THAT MATTER?

"I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE KHAN RULING HIS SMALL CORNER OF THE GALAXY THAN ACTIVELY TRYING TO DEPRIVE US OF OURS."
YES, THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN. THE FORESTS WILL PROVIDE SHELTER, AND I CAN SEE THE RIVER FROM HERE...

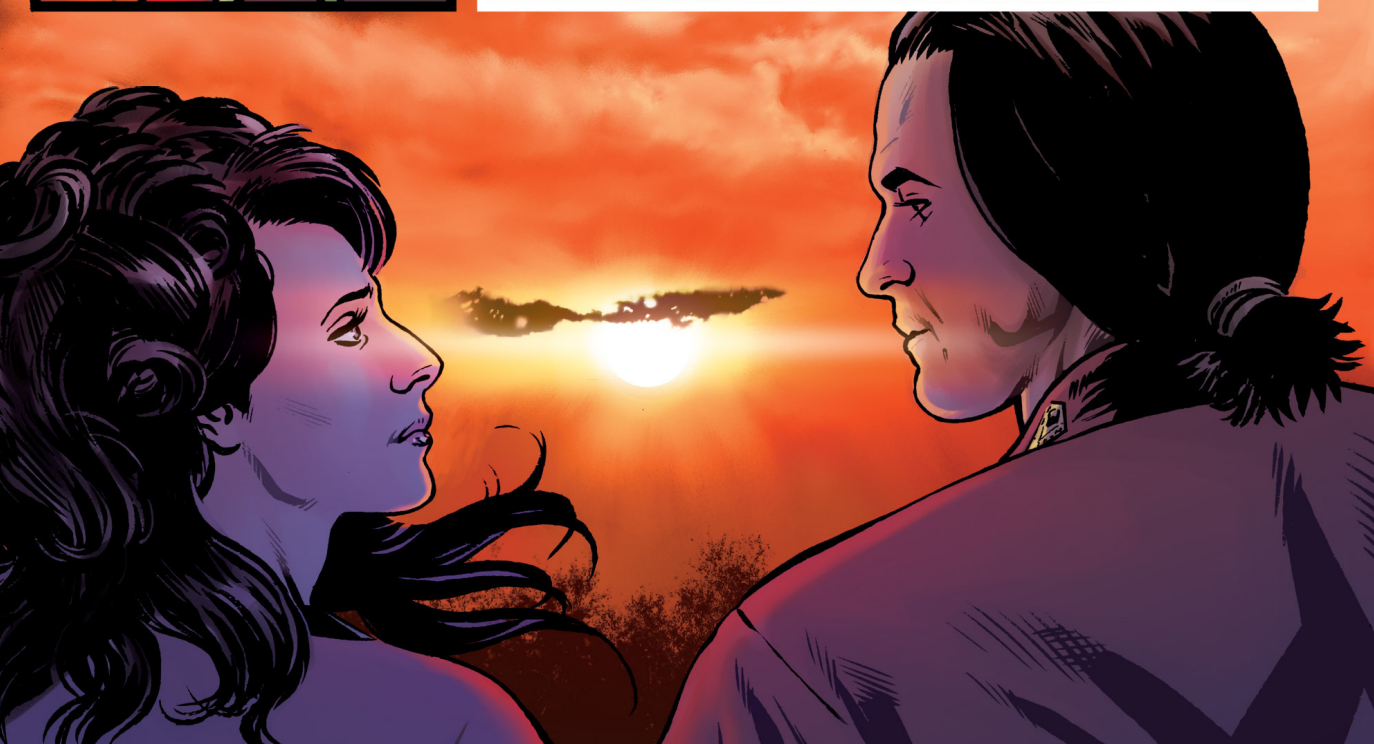

SS BOTANY BAY
WELL, I WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE SHIP RUNNING LONG ENOUGH TO LAND HER, BUT SHE'LL NEVER FLY AGAIN, THAT MUCH IS SURE. THE MAKESHIFT TRACTOR BEAM I HOOKED UP TO GET THE CARGO CONTAINERS DOWN IS JUST ABOUT BURNED OUT AS WELL.

HOWEVER, I MANAGED TO CONVERT THE ENGINES INTO A POWER GENERATOR SO YE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUT THAT TO GOOD USE AS LONG AS THE FUEL HOLDS OUT.
AND THE INSULATED HULL OF THE CARGO CONTAINERS WILL MAKE FOR A FINE SHELTER WHILE YOU'RE GETTING STARTED.

THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SCOTT. YOUR ASSISTANCE IS MOST APPRECIATED.


IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YE THINK YOU'LL BE NEEDIN'?

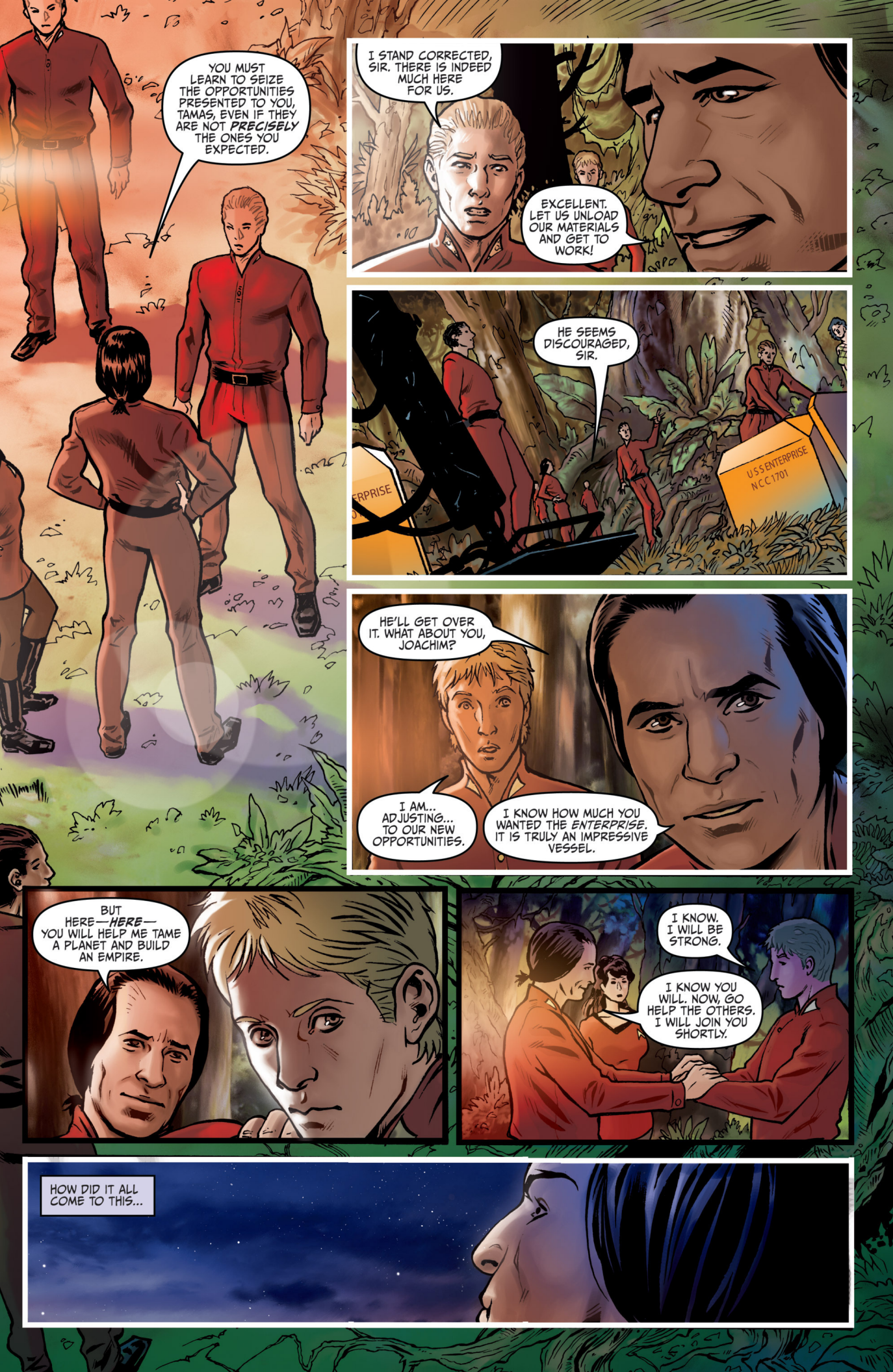
I BELIEVE I HAVE EVERYTHING I WILL REQUIRE.



KHAN. BEST OF LUCK TO YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE.
I WILL NOT REQUIRE LUCK, CAPTAIN. BUT I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT NONETHELESS.
ENTERPRISE, THIS IS THE CAPTAIN. FOUR TO BEAM UP.
SS BOTANY BAY
AND GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ARE ABANDONING US HERE.
THEY HAVE LEFT US HERE TO DIE. IS THIS THE FUTURE WE LEFT EARTH FOR?
DAMN YOU, KIRK! COWARD!
TAMAS, I WILL NOT HAVE YOU CURSE THE GENEROSITY OF THE CREW OF THE *ENTERPRISE*. WE MAY BE THE SUPERIOR, BUT JAMES KIRK BESTED ME–HE IS NO MAN'S INFERIOR.

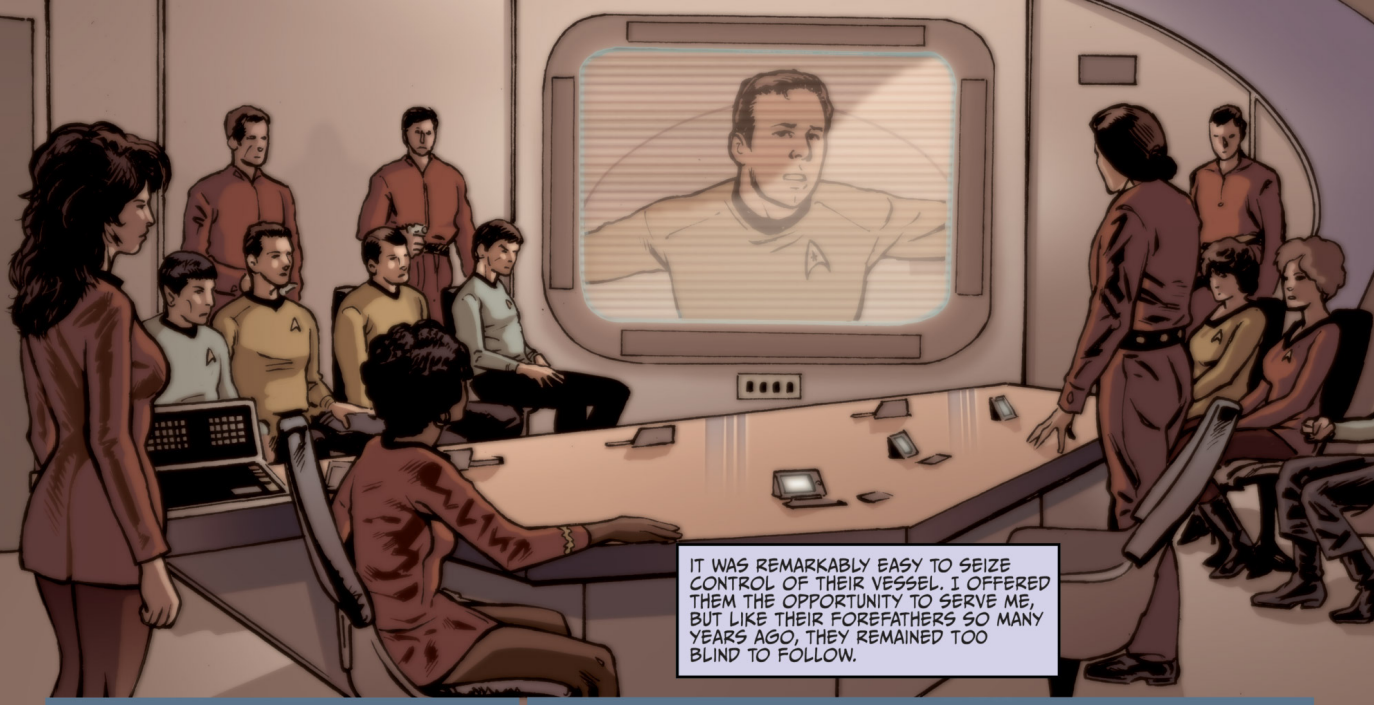
CONSIDERING THAT WE TRIED TO TAKE OVER CAPTAIN KIRK'S SHIP...
...IT WAS MORE THAN GRACIOUS OF HIM TO LEAVE US HERE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THESE CARGO CONTAINERS TO HELP US ESTABLISH OUR NEW HOME.
DID WE NOT HEAD OUT FROM EARTH LOOKING FOR A NEW BEGINNING?
JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
IT IS ALL WE COULD HAVE DREAMED OF, AND MORE. IT MAY NOT BE THE STARSHIP *ENTERPRISE*, BUT IT IS GOOD ENOUGH.


YOU MUST LEARN TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO YOU, TAMAS, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT *PRECISELY* THE ONES YOU EXPECTED.
I STAND CORRECTED, SIR. THERE IS INDEED MUCH HERE FOR US.
EXCELLENT. LET US UNLOAD OUR MATERIALS AND GET TO WORK!
HE SEEMS DISCOURAGED, SIR.
USSENTERPRISE NCC1701
HE'LL GET OVER IT. WHAT ABOUT YOU, JOACHIM?
I AM... ADJUSTING... TO OUR NEW OPPORTUNITIES.
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WANTED THE *ENTERPRISE*. IT IS TRULY AN IMPRESSIVE VESSEL.
BUT HERE—*HERE*—YOU WILL HELP ME TAME A PLANET AND BUILD AN EMPIRE.
I KNOW. I WILL BE STRONG.
I KNOW YOU WILL. NOW, GO HELP THE OTHERS. I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.
HOW DID IT ALL COME TO THIS...

ONCE, ANOTHER LIFETIME AGO, I WAS A KING. THE PRODUCT OF SELECTIVE BREEDING AND GENETIC ENGINEERING, MY PEOPLE WERE BORN TO RULE. AND SO WE DID. A QUARTER OF THE WORLD LAY AT MY FEET, WITH MY BRETHREN IN TURN CONTROLLING DOZENS OF NATIONS.
BUT BEFORE I COULD CONSOLIDATE MY REIGN, HUMANITY LASHED OUT AGAINST US, AND WITH NO SINGLE VOICE GIVING THE ORDERS, MY BRETHREN LOST CONTROL OF THEIR NATIONS, ONE BY ONE. EMBOLDENED, THE WORLD TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO ME.
I CHOSE THE ONLY OPTION LEFT: ESCAPE. WITH 84 OF MY PEOPLE, I ELECTED TO LEAVE THE PLANET RATHER THAN SEE IT FALL BACK INTO THE HANDS OF THE INFERIOR.
THE VESSEL WAS A SLEEPER SHIP, DESIGNED TO PLACE THE CREW IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR THE LONG PERIODS REQUIRED FOR INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL. OUR DESTINATION? A NEW WORLD TO CONQUER.

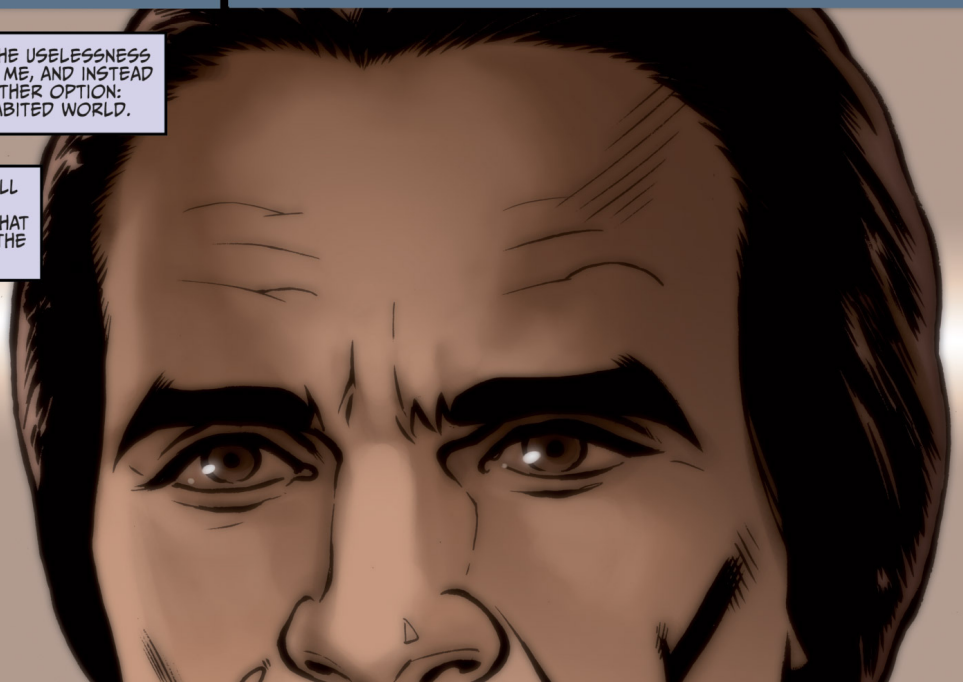
I WOULD LATER LEARN THAT OUR SHIP WOULD CONTINUE ON ITS COURSE FOR NEARLY THREE CENTURIES...
...UNTIL IT WAS DISCOVERED BY AN EARTH VESSEL, NOW ABLE TO TRAVEL AT SPEEDS FAR GREATER THAN OUR OWN. I WAS REVIVED BY HER CREW, WHO WERE UNDERSTANDABLY CURIOUS AT THEIR DISCOVERY.
I QUICKLY SURMISED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN MUCH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE INTERVENING YEARS...
...WHEN IT CAME TO MAN HIMSELF, VERY LITTLE HAD CHANGED.

I SWIFTLY MADE MYSELF AWARE OF THE NEW WORLD AROUND ME; THERE WAS MUCH TO DO.
ONLY ONE OF THE CREW WAS WORTHY OF MY ATTENTION: THE SHIP'S HISTORIAN, MARLA MCGIVERS.
I MADE HER MINE.
WITH HER ASSISTANCE, I WAS ABLE TO REVIVE MY PEOPLE FROM THEIR SLUMBER.


IT WAS REMARKABLY EASY TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THEIR VESSEL. I OFFERED THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ME, BUT LIKE THEIR FOREFATHERS SO MANY YEARS AGO, THEY REMAINED TOO BLIND TO FOLLOW.

TO HIS CREDIT, KIRK SAW THE USELESSNESS OF ATTEMPTING TO PUNISH ME, AND INSTEAD OFFERED MY PEOPLE ANOTHER OPTION: LIFE IN EXILE ON AN UNINHABITED WORLD.

WHAT SOME WOULD CALL EXILE, I SHALL MAKE A KINGDOM-AN EMPIRE THAT WILL ONE DAY STRIDE THE STARS THEMSELVES!



WE WILL START FROM OUR LANDING PLACE HERE...
AND EXPLORE OUTWARDS IN ALL DIRECTIONS, LOOKING FOR RESOURCES TO EXPLOIT.
I WANT YOU TO REPORT BACK ON POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR FOOD AND WATER, AS WELL AS USEFUL MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTION.
REMEMBER, THIS IS AN UNTAMED, HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. BE WARY.
EACH OF YOU IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE RIGHT NOW. PROTECT YOURSELVES. BE CONFIDENT, BUT NOT FOOLHARDY.
S.S. BOTANY BAY

KHAN?
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT OF THIS?

THE SECOND MONTH.
HELP!
BEAUTIFUL...
GGNNRRRAAACGGHHH
SAWYER!
LOOK OUT!
WITHDRAW! WITHDRAW!

THEY WARNED US THAT THIS WOULD BE A DANGEROUS PLACE.

BUT WE *WILL* CONQUER THIS WORLD. HAVE NO DOUBT.

IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT, ISN'T IT?

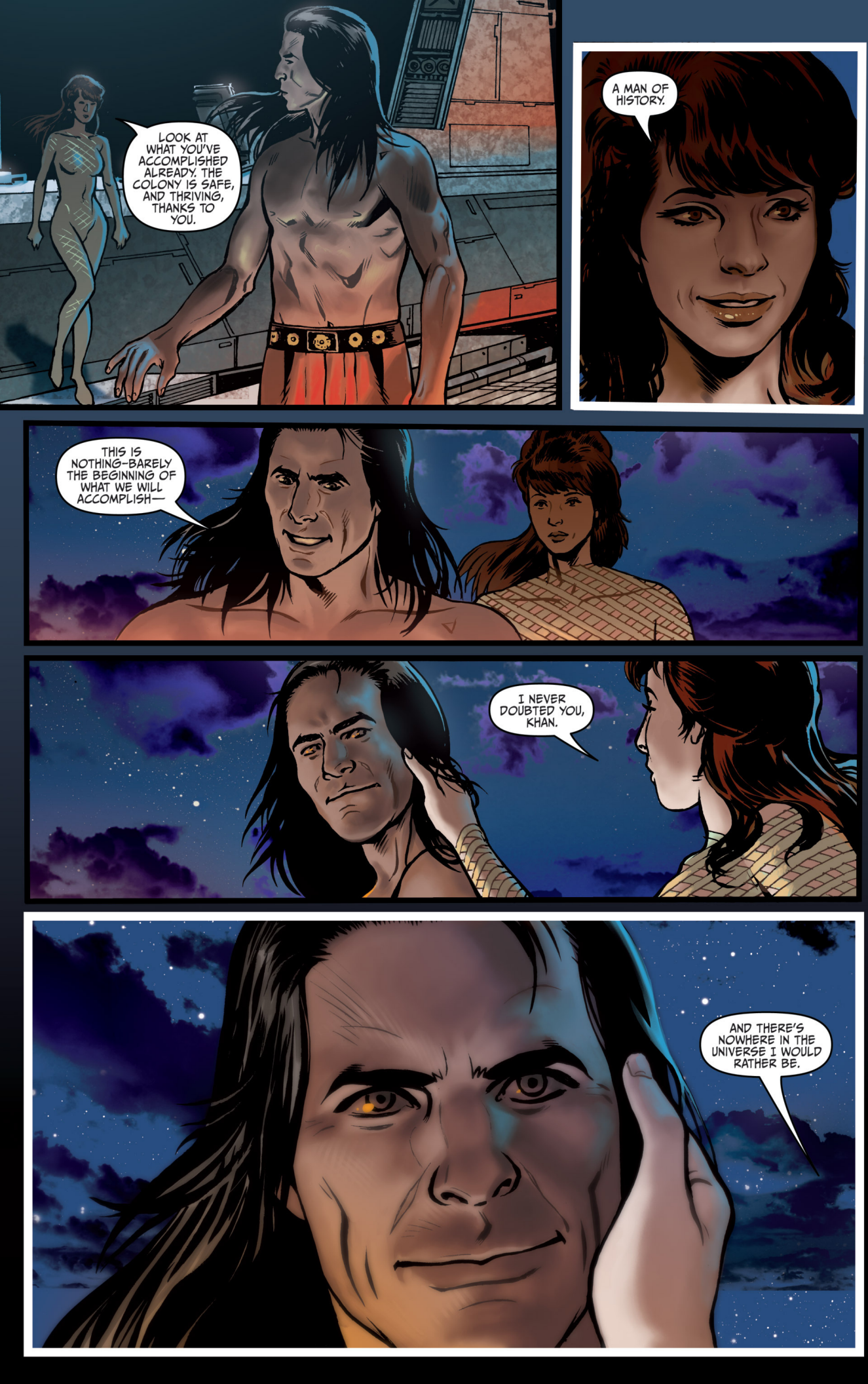
I WILL *NOT* TOLERATE A LACK OF CONFIDENCE ON YOUR PART!

KHAN, WAIT!

THE THIRD MONTH.
AAAAHHHHGHH!
JOACHIM!
RRRAGGGH!
KRAK
KOFF! KOFF! KOFF!
KOFF! KOFF!
A LESSON FOR US ALL IN OUR NEW HOME, JOACHIM. ONE MUST BE CERTAIN TO STEP CAREFULLY.

THE SIXTH MONTH.
STOC!
DO YOU SEE? THIS IS A GOOD WORLD. IT WILL PROVIDE US WITH ALL OUR NEEDS.
ALREADY WE NO LONGER NEED TO DEPEND ON OUR OLD SHIP AND THESE... FEDERATION BOXES TO SHELTER US. AND WE HAVE LEARNED HOW TO PROVIDE FOR OURSELVES AMPLY.
...SOMEDAY OUR CHILDREN WILL SEE A CITY, AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL SEE A GREAT METROPOLIS!
WHERE NOW YOU SEE ONLY CRUDE CABINS...

FEAST TONIGHT, AND REST WELL. AND TOMORROW WE SHALL RETURN TO THE WORK WE WERE BORN TO—
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
BUILDING OUR EMPIRE!
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN
KHAN. LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE. YOUR PEOPLE.


LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY. THE COLONY IS SAFE, AND THRIVING, THANKS TO YOU.
A MAN OF HISTORY.
THIS IS NOTHING–BARELY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WE WILL ACCOMPLISH—
I NEVER DOUBTED YOU, KHAN.
AND THERE'S NOWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE I WOULD RATHER BE.

TRULY, THE SUPERIOR WOMAN.

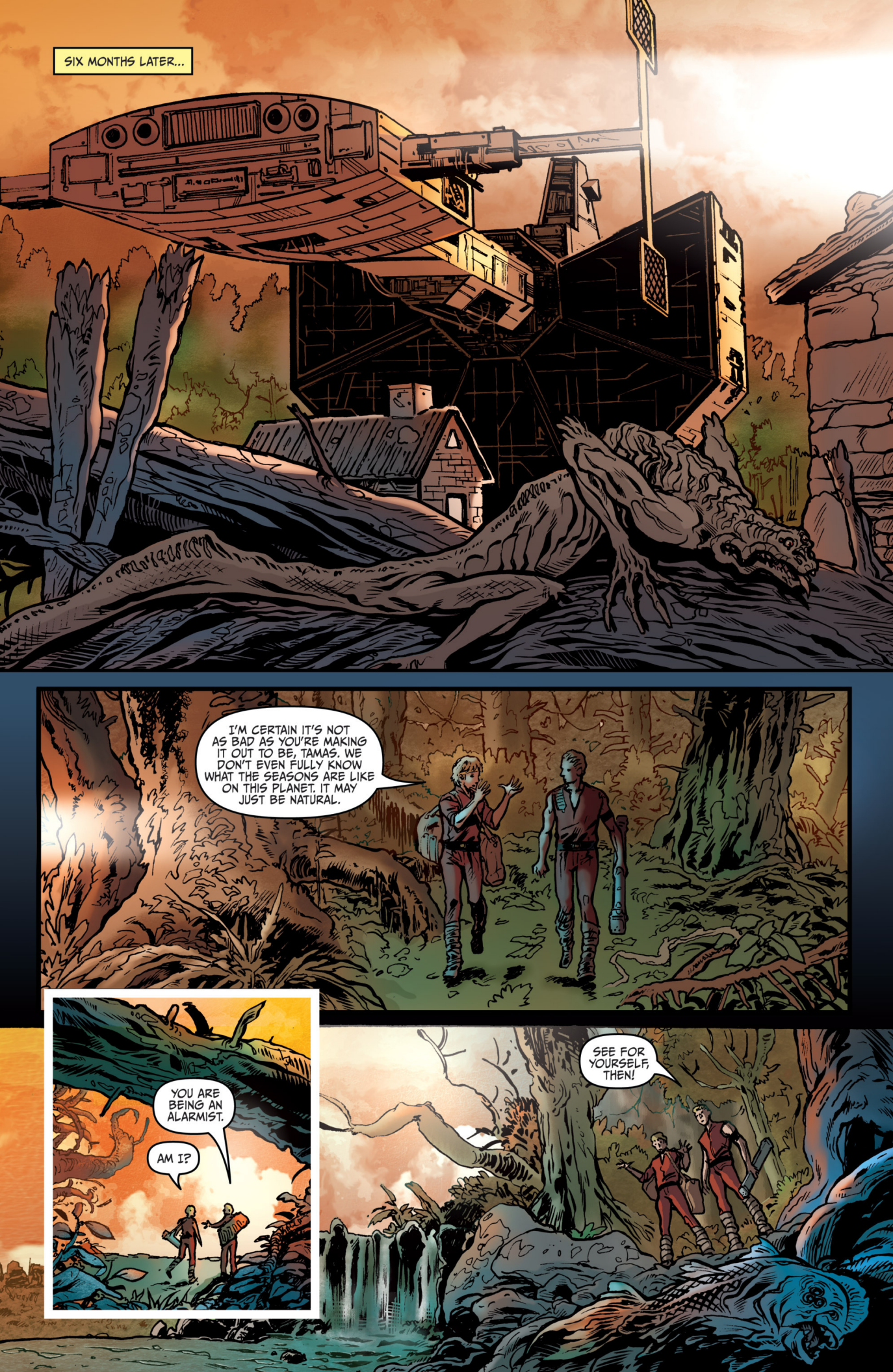
WHAT IS THIS...

"IT'S GONE."
2
CHAPTER
"WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT'S GONE?"

IT IS GONE. IT HAS EXPLODED.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
I HAVE COMPARED WHAT I SEE TO THE MAPS OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM LEFT BEHIND BY THE CREW OF THE *ENTERPRISE*. WHERE ONCE THERE WAS A PLANET, I NOW SEE ONLY AN EXPANDING FIELD OF DEBRIS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT: CETI ALPHA SIX IS NO MORE.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!
IT MEANS *NOTHING.*
BUT THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT THE SAME THING CAN'T HAPPEN HERE!

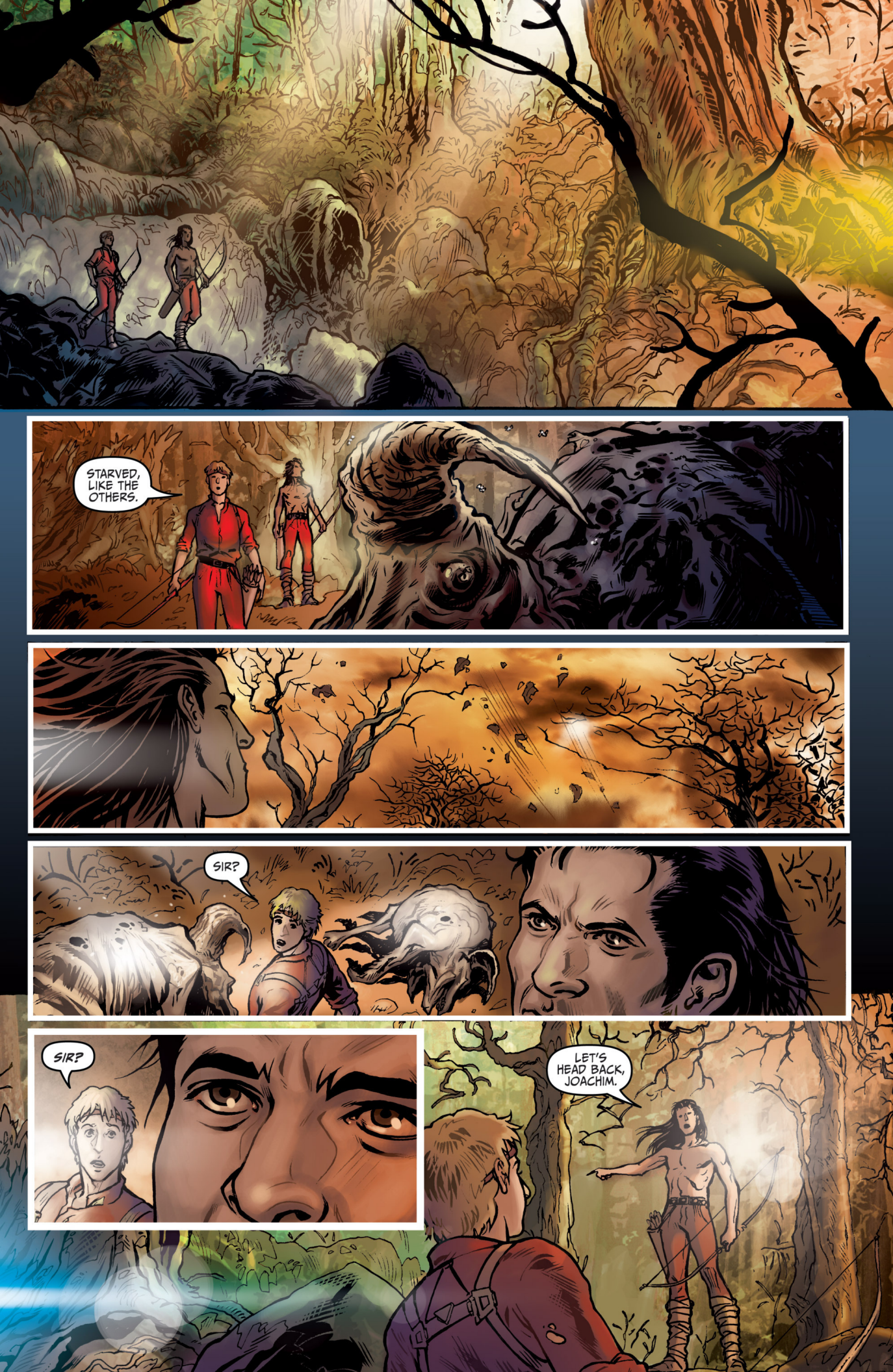
JOACHIM. BE STRONG.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. WE HAVE BUILT A HOME FOR OURSELVES. FROM ADVERSITY WE THRIVE.
OF COURSE, SIR. MY APOLOGIES.
I WANT YOU AND TAMAS TO GO AND SPREAD THE WORD. YES, CETI ALPHA SIX HAS EXPLODED, BUT WE NEED NOT WORRY.
YES, SIR.

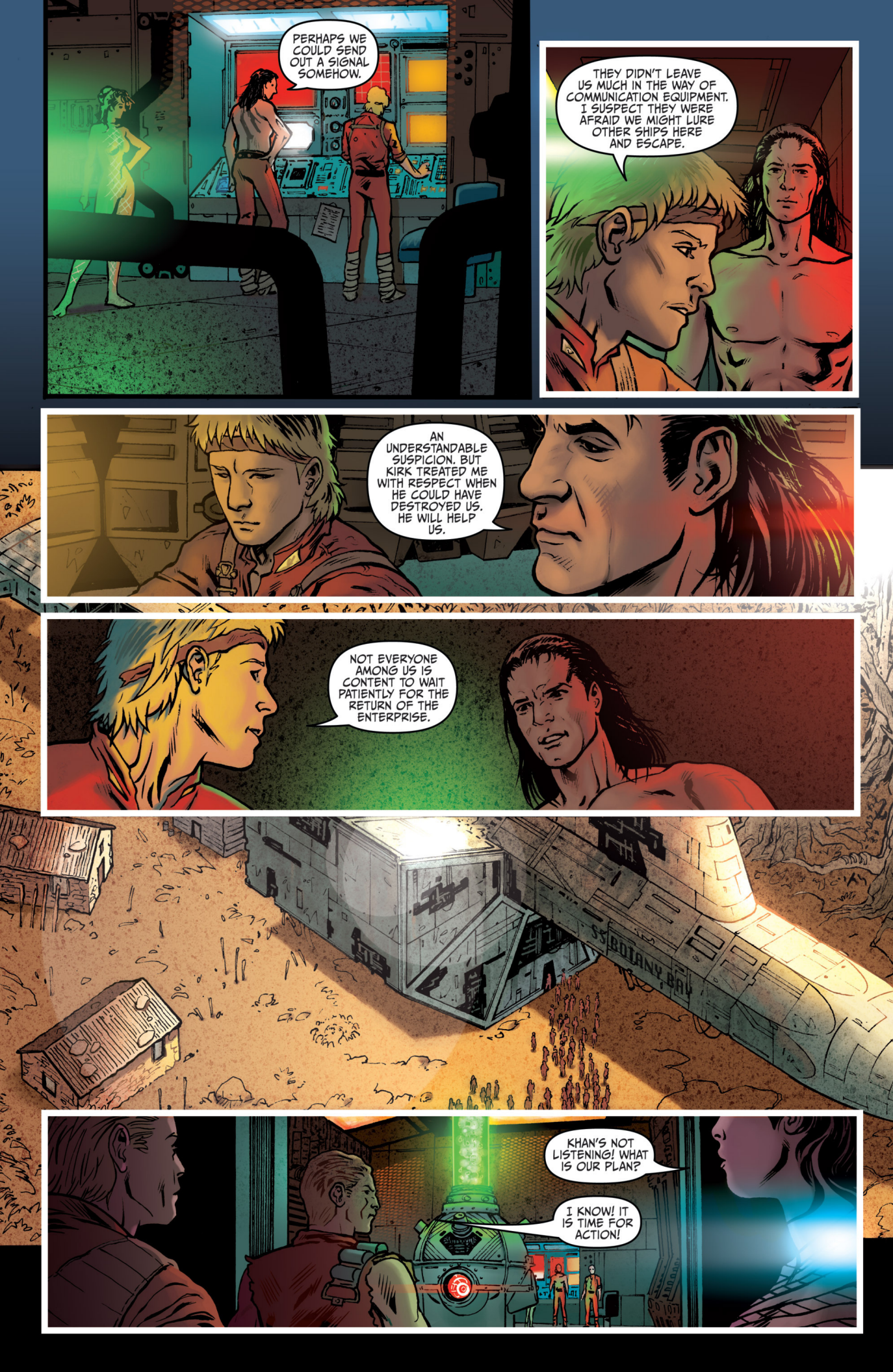
"NOTHING TO FEAR"? I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN THAT, KHAN. YOU'RE CONCERNED.
THE SITUATION IS... *TROUBLING*, I WILL ADMIT.
BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE IN ANY DANGER. BESIDES, SURELY STARFLEET WILL BE KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON OUR PROGRESS, AS MUCH FOR THEIR BEST INTEREST AS OUR OWN. SHOULD THE SITUATION GROW DIRE, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CAPTAIN KIRK WILL COME.
KIRK WILL COME...


SIX MONTHS LATER...
I'M CERTAIN IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU'RE MAKING IT OUT TO BE, TAMAS. WE DON'T EVEN FULLY KNOW WHAT THE SEASONS ARE LIKE ON THIS PLANET. IT MAY JUST BE NATURAL.
YOU ARE BEING AN ALARMIST.
AM I?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, THEN!

THIS IS FAR WORSE THAN BEFORE. I WAS HERE NOT LONG AGO, AND NOW THIS?
THE CHANGES ARE ACCELERATING, JOACHIM.
I'M TELLING YOU, THE ENVIRONMENT—IN FACT, THE VERY ORBIT—OF THIS PLANET HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PLANETARY CATACLYSM.
NOW, LOOK THERE!

WHOOOOOM!
MORE PIECES OF DEBRIS STRIKING OUR PLANET.
IT'S JUST BEEN A MATTER OF GOOD FORTUNE THAT OUR SETTLEMENT HAS NOT BEEN STRUCK.
EITHER WAY, THOUGH, THE EFFECTS ARE GOING TO BE THE SAME. IF WE SURVIVE THE BOMBARDMENTS, WE'LL BE LIVING ON A LIFELESS HULK.


STARVED, LIKE THE OTHERS.
SIR?
SIR?
LET'S HEAD BACK, JOACHIM.


PERHAPS WE COULD SEND OUT A SIGNAL SOMEHOW.
THEY DIDN'T LEAVE US MUCH IN THE WAY OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT. I SUSPECT THEY WERE AFRAID WE MIGHT LURE OTHER SHIPS HERE AND ESCAPE.
AN UNDERSTANDABLE SUSPICION. BUT KIRK TREATED ME WITH RESPECT WHEN HE COULD HAVE DESTROYED US. HE WILL HELP US.
NOT EVERYONE AMONG US IS CONTENT TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE RETURN OF THE ENTERPRISE.
SS BOTANY BAY
KHAN'S NOT LISTENING! WHAT IS OUR PLAN?
I KNOW! IT IS TIME FOR ACTION!

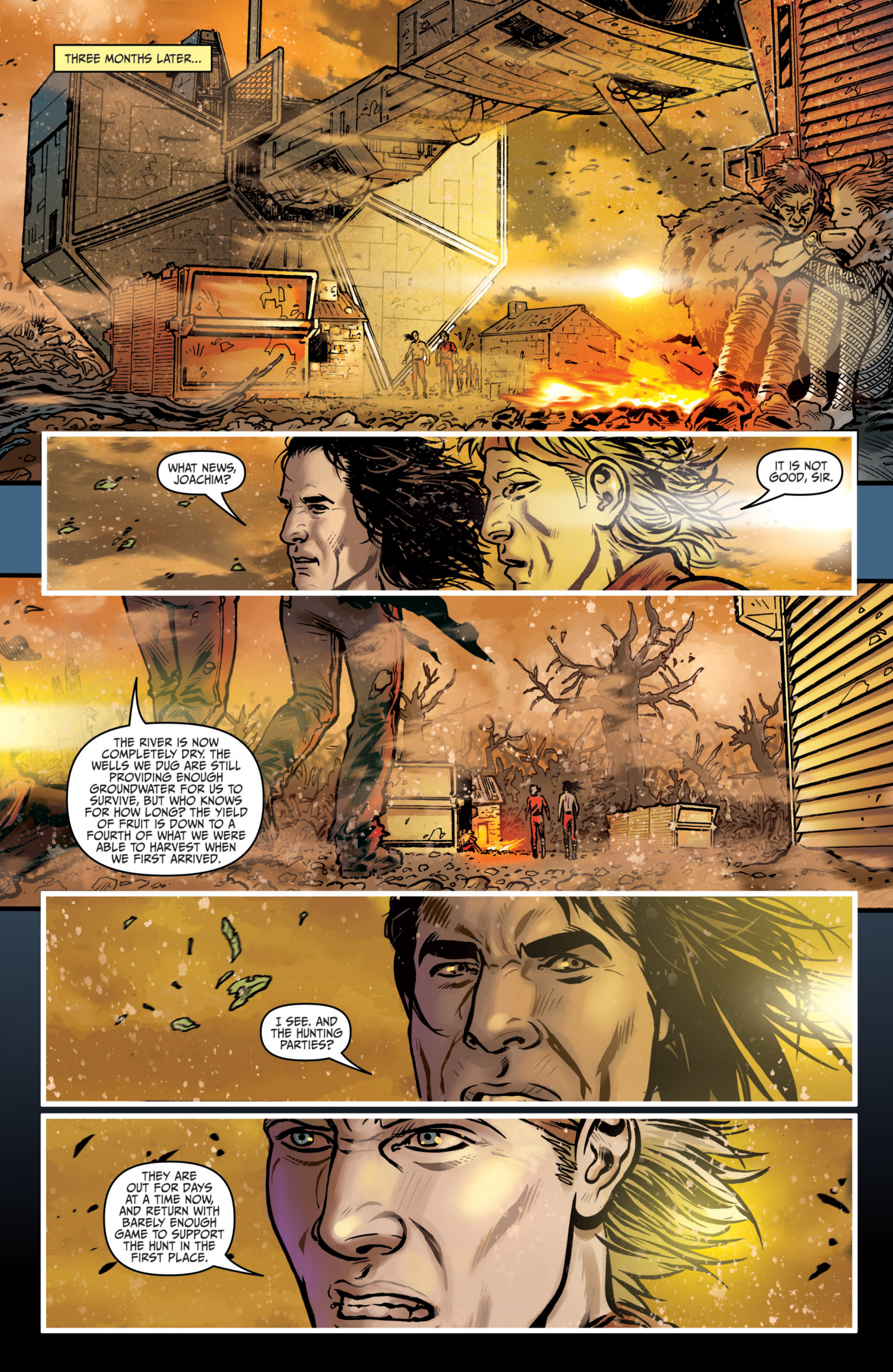
OPEN YOUR EYES, SIR. THIS PLANET IS *DYING*. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.
I AM NO FOOL. YES, THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES IN THE PLANET. THAT CANNOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. THE EXPLOSION OF CETI ALPHA SIX HAS CAUSED A SHIFT IN OUR OWN ORBIT. AND YOU HAVE ALL SEEN THE METEOR STRIKES.
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, TAMAS? THEN BY ALL MEANS, *SPEAK*.
WE ARE IN A NEW, *UNCERTAIN* SITUATION, TO BE SURE. BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY. CAPTAIN KIRK WILL COME. RESCUE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ON THE WAY.

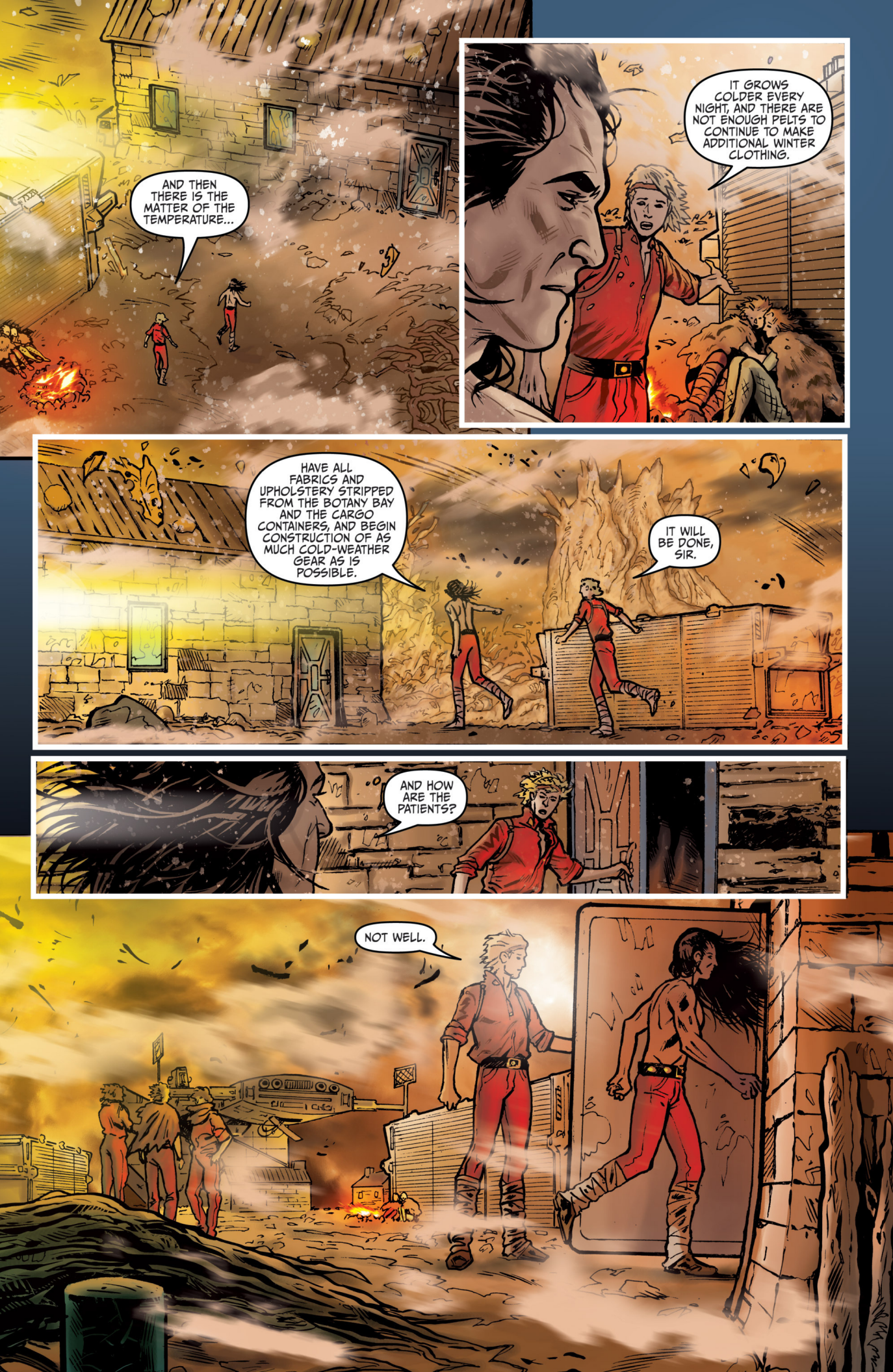
HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE! WE CANNOT JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT TO DIE!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? THE SHIP'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ARE OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS OUT OF DATE. NO ONE WILL RECEIVE OUR RADIO WAVE SIGNALS FOR YEARS.
I THINK ANY ACTION IS BETTER THAN SIMPLE SUBMISSION. THIS PLANET IS A DEATHTRAP!
AND? I AM OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS...

I AM SUGGESTING THAT WE FIND A WAY TO MAKE OUR ESCAPE!
THIS... VESSEL WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE YEAR 1993. IT REQUIRES THE EQUIVALENT OF AN AMERICAN SATURN V ROCKET TO GENERATE THE LIFT NECESSARY TO ESCAPE THE ATMOSPHERE AND ACHIEVE PLANETARY ORBIT.
I DO NOT HAPPEN TO HAVE A SATURN V ROCKET, TAMAS. DO YOU?
...NO. NO, I DO NOT.
SUCH AN INCONVENIENCE FOR US ALL.
THIS VESSEL HAS NO ESCAPE PODS, NO SHUTTLECRAFT. AND EVEN IF WE COULD LAUNCH THE BOTANY BAY, WE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO WITHOUT WARP ENGINES. THE ONLY SOURCE OF POWER IS THIS SMALL EMERGENCY GENERATOR COBBLED TOGETHER BY COMMANDER SCOTT AS A COURTESY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE. YOU KNOW ALL THIS, TAMAS!
OUR ONLY COURSE OF ACTION IS TO REMAIN STRONG AND HOLD OUT UNTIL WE RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM CAPTAIN KIRK. I AM SURE THEY WILL CHECK ON US SOON. HE WILL NOT FORSAKE US.

IT IS *YOU* WHO HAVE FORSAKEN US, KHAN! YOU AND YOUR IRRATIONAL FAITH IN THE MAN WHO BEAT YOU AND LEFT US HERE TO ROT!
KRAK!
THUDD!
I HAVE LISTENED ENOUGH. WE WILL PREPARE FOR WORSENING CONDITIONS AND AWAIT OUR RESCUE. IT IS ALL WE CAN DO.
IS THAT CLEAR?

YES, SIR. I ...APOLOGIZE FOR MY IMPERTINENCE.
VERY WELL. NOW LEAVE ME.
KIRK WILL COME.
KIRK WILL COME...


THREE MONTHS LATER...
WHAT NEWS, JOACHIM?
IT IS NOT GOOD, SIR.
THE RIVER IS NOW COMPLETELY DRY. THE WELLS WE DUG ARE STILL PROVIDING ENOUGH GROUNDWATER FOR US TO SURVIVE, BUT WHO KNOWS FOR HOW LONG? THE YIELD OF FRUIT IS DOWN TO A FOURTH OF WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO HARVEST WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED.
I SEE. AND THE HUNTING PARTIES?
THEY ARE OUT FOR DAYS AT A TIME NOW, AND RETURN WITH BARELY ENOUGH GAME TO SUPPORT THE HUNT IN THE FIRST PLACE.


AND THEN THERE IS THE MATTER OF THE TEMPERATURE...
IT GROWS COLDER EVERY NIGHT, AND THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PELTS TO CONTINUE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL WINTER CLOTHING.
HAVE ALL FABRICS AND UPHOLSTERY STRIPPED FROM THE BOTANY BAY AND THE CARGO CONTAINERS, AND BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF AS MUCH COLD-WEATHER GEAR AS IS POSSIBLE.
IT WILL BE DONE, SIR.
AND HOW ARE THE PATIENTS?
NOT WELL.

HOW COULD SIX OF OUR PEOPLE ALL BECOME MENTALLY UNSTABLE SIMULTANEOUSLY? THE STRESS OF OUR SITUATION? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEM MORE CAPABLE—
WAIT A MOMENT. WHY ARE THEY NO LONGER RESTRAINED?
THAT'S JUST IT, SIR. WE NO LONGER BELIEVE IT TO BE MERELY MENTAL BREAKDOWN. WE SUSPECT IT TO BE SOMETHING PHYSIOLOGICAL. WHAT WAS INITIALLY A LOSS OF WILL HAS PROGRESSED TO A FORM OF... PARALYSIS.
PARALYSIS?!
IT BEGAN TWO DAYS AGO... IT CAME ON SLOWLY, BEGINNING WITH THE EXTREMITIES.

A TERRIBLE THING, IS IT NOT?

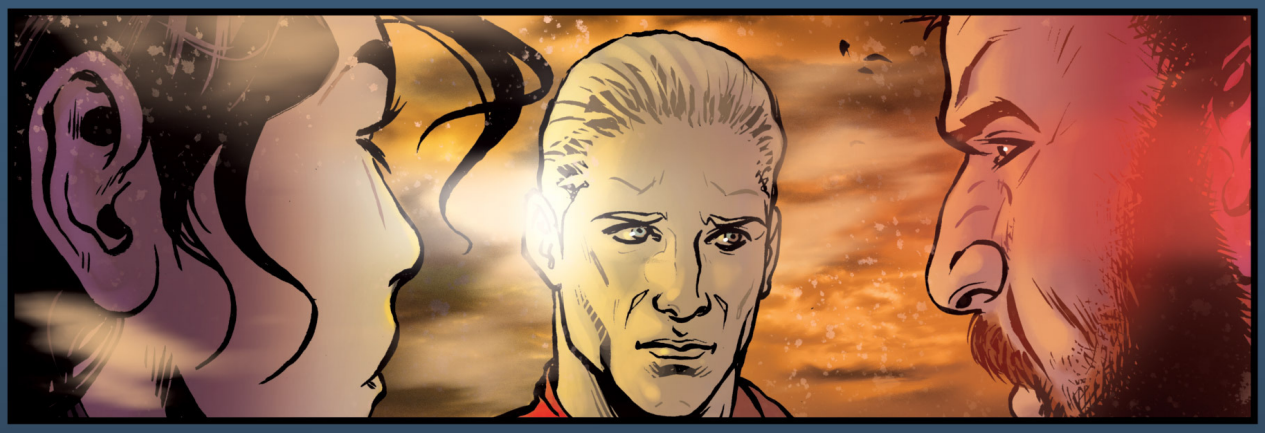
THE INABILITY TO MOVE, TO ACT, TO SAVE ONESELF..

I CAN THINK OF NO WORSE FATE FOR ONES SUCH AS US.

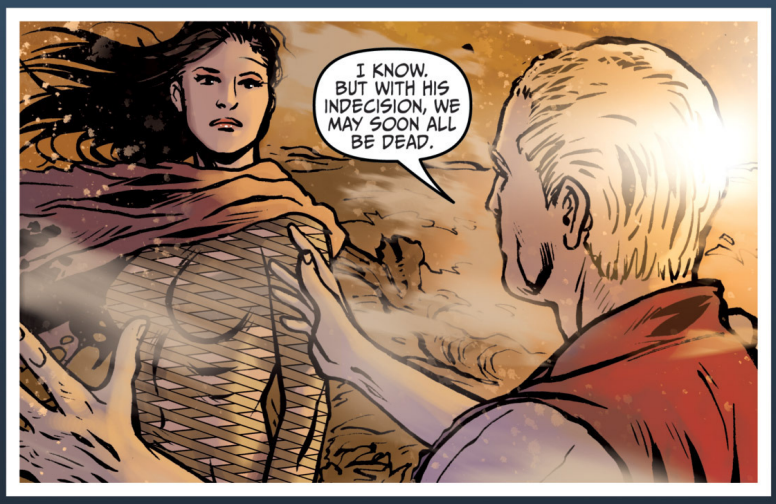
BUT IN THEIR DEFENSE, AT LEAST THESE POOR SOULS DID NOT *CHOOSE* TO BE PARALYZED.

CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THEM AS BEST YOU CAN.
YES, SIR.

IT'S ONLY GETTING WORSE.
I SEE IT LIKE THIS. THE METEOR STRIKES HAVE CREATED SOMETHING LIKE THE CONDITIONS PREDICTED FOR A NUCLEAR WINTER BACK ON EARTH.
BUT THE EFFECTS HERE ARE OF EVEN GREATER SEVERITY THAN THAT ONCE FORECAST AS A RESULT OF A NUCLEAR CONFLICT.
CORRECT. SOMEHOW OUR PLANET'S ORBIT HAS BEEN ALTERED, AMPLIFYING WHAT WAS ALREADY A DISASTER.
KHAN KNOWS ALL THIS?
OF COURSE. HIS OPTIONS ARE LIMITED. ALL OF OUR OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.
THE QUESTION IS, IS THE OLD MAN WILLING TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS NECESSARY GIVEN OUR CURRENT SITUATION?



YOU SPEAK OF *MUTINY*, TAMAS. A REBELLION.
YOU KNOW WE OWE HIM EVERYTHING.

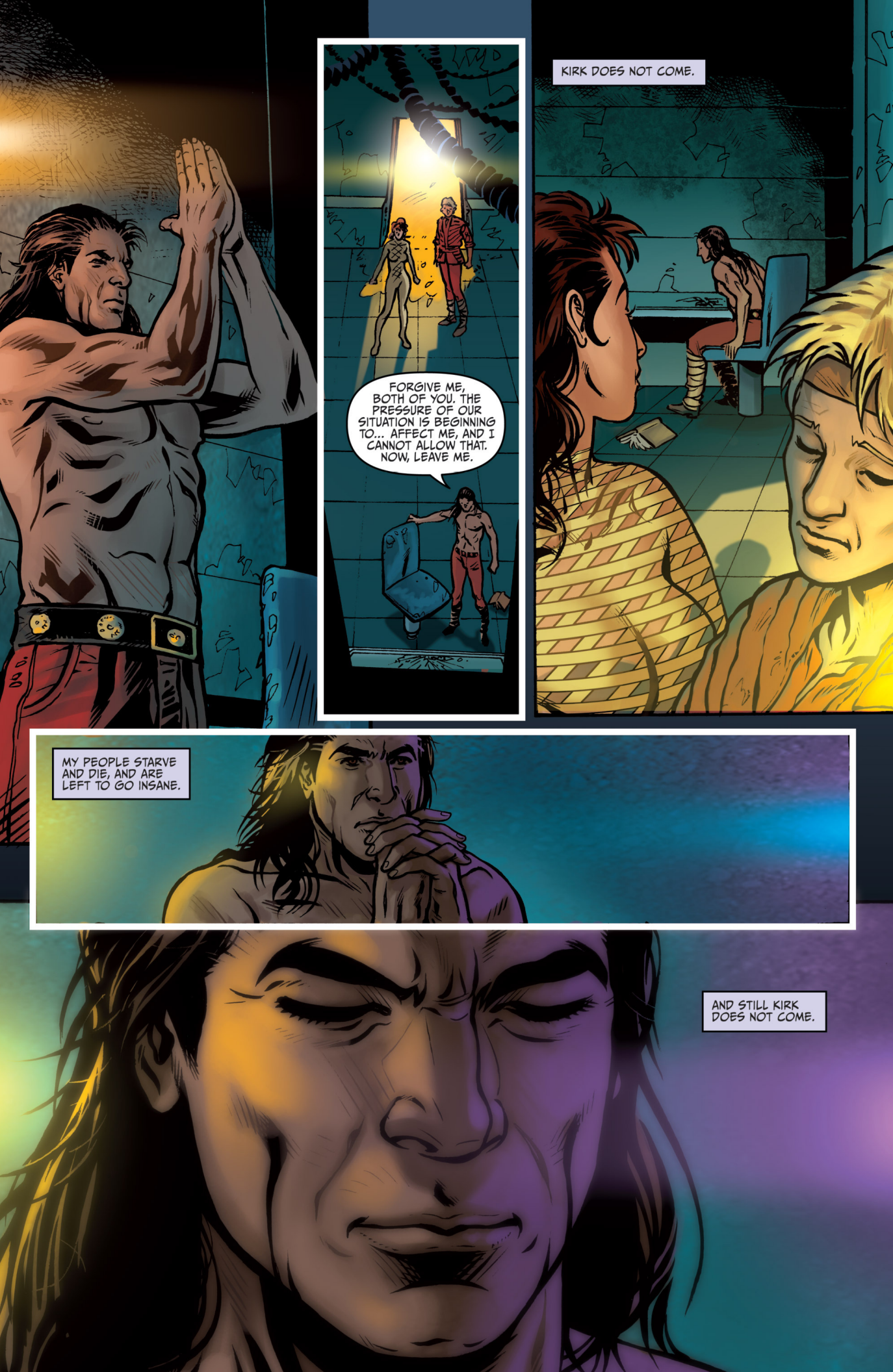

I KNOW. BUT WITH HIS INDECISION, WE MAY SOON ALL BE DEAD.

WE NEED TO TAKE DRASTIC STEPS TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL HERE.
HE SEEMS INCAPABLE OF MAKING THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS. AND YES, I KNOW IT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE ON OUR OWN, BUT WHO KNOWS IF KHAN HAS REALLY INVESTIGATED EVERY AVENUE? HE SEEMS CONTENT TO WAIT FOR A RESCUE THAT WILL NEVER COME.

YOU DON'T THINK THE *ENTERPRISE* WILL COME BACK TO CHECK ON US?

THEY LEFT US HERE BECAUSE THEY FEAR US. THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE WILL TO KILL US, BUT THEY CERTAINLY WON'T MIND IF WE DIE HERE.
NO, I THINK OUR DESTINY IS IN OUR OWN HANDS. SOON I THINK THE THREE OF US WILL BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS.

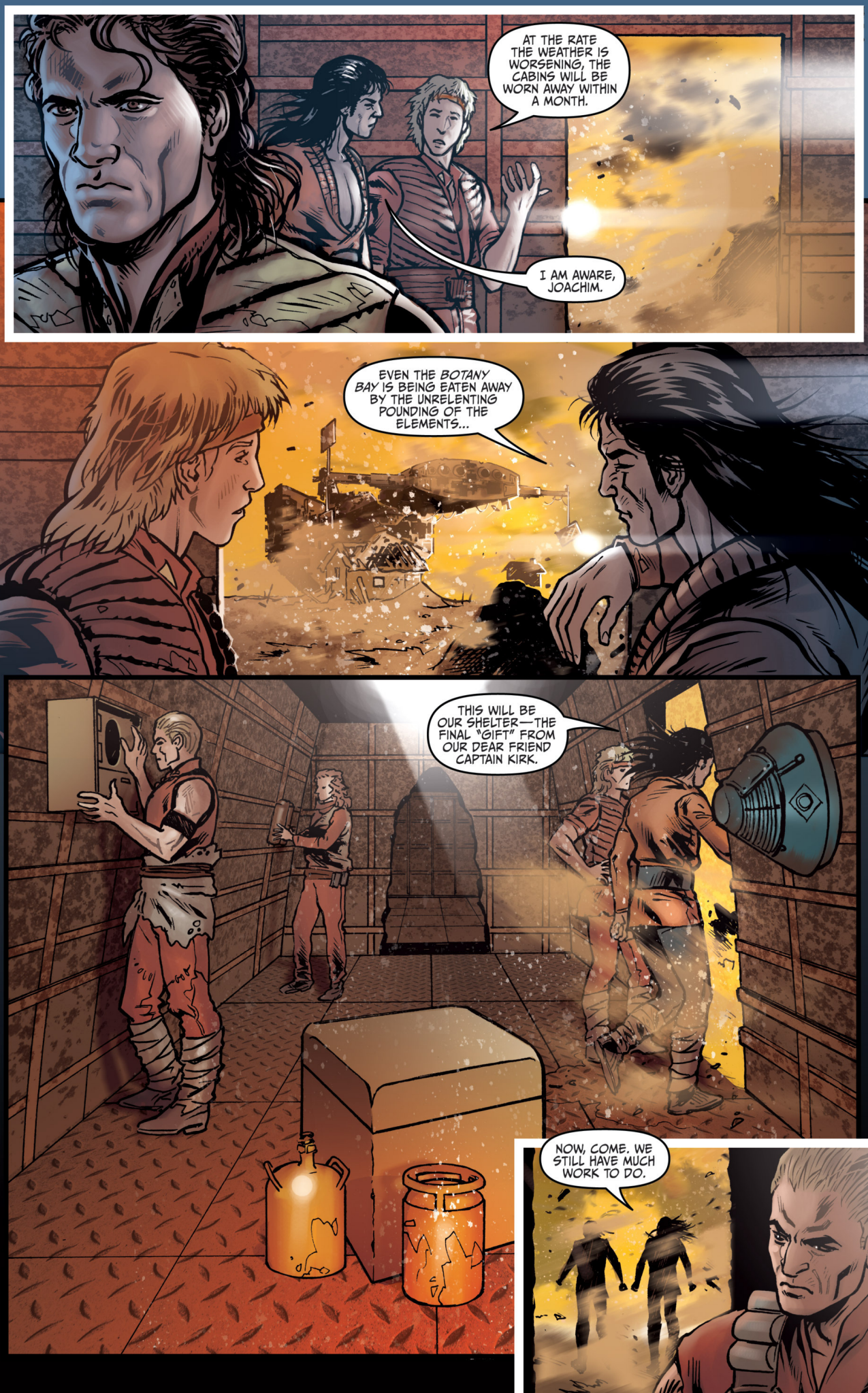
ANY PROGRESS WITH YOUR ATTEMPTS TO DEVISE A SUBSPACE TRANSMITTER, JOACHIM?
NO, SIR. MY SURVEY OF ALL THE LIMITED COMPONENTS THAT WE HAVE HERE COMBINED WITH MY REVIEW OF EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION THAT WE GLEANED FROM THE *ENTERPRISE*'S COMPUTER LIBRARY ONLY SEEMS TO CONFIRM THAT THE TASK IS A FUTILE ONE.
FUTILE!? ARRGH!
"FUTILE" IS NOT THE WORD I WANT TO HEAR, JOACHIM!
KRRNNCH!


FORGIVE ME, BOTH OF YOU. THE PRESSURE OF OUR SITUATION IS BEGINNING TO... AFFECT ME, AND I CANNOT ALLOW THAT. NOW, LEAVE ME.
KIRK DOES NOT COME.
MY PEOPLE STARVE AND DIE, AND ARE LEFT TO GO INSANE.
AND STILL KIRK DOES NOT COME.

3
CHAPTER
ON MY MARK! ONE... TWO...
THREE!
HRRGGNGH!
AGAIN!
HRRGGNGH!
KLANG!

FSSSSSSSSSSSH!
KRRNNCH!
KLANG!
WE CAN COUNT ON NO ONE. WE MUST SURVIVE ON OUR OWN UNTIL HELP ARRIVES.

SEAL EVERY CREVASSE BETWEEN THE TWO CONTAINERS. IF THE SANDSTORMS WORSEN, THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY REFUGE!
YES, SIR!
STACK THE FOOD STORES IN THE FAR CORNER.
YES, SIR.
THE WILDLIFE IS ALMOST ENTIRELY GONE. WE ARE LEFT WITH ONLY THE CURED MEATS WE WERE ABLE TO PRESERVE FROM THE MOST RECENT HUNTS, AND THE EMERGENCY RATIONS FROM THE *BOTANY BAY*. FREEZE-DRIED FOOD FROM CENTURIES PAST. I DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO IT.


AT THE RATE THE WEATHER IS WORSENING, THE CABINS WILL BE WORN AWAY WITHIN A MONTH.
I AM AWARE, JOACHIM.
EVEN THE *BOTANY BAY* IS BEING EATEN AWAY BY THE UNRELENTING POUNDING OF THE ELEMENTS...
THIS WILL BE OUR SHELTER—THE FINAL "GIFT" FROM OUR DEAR FRIEND CAPTAIN KIRK.
NOW, COME. WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.

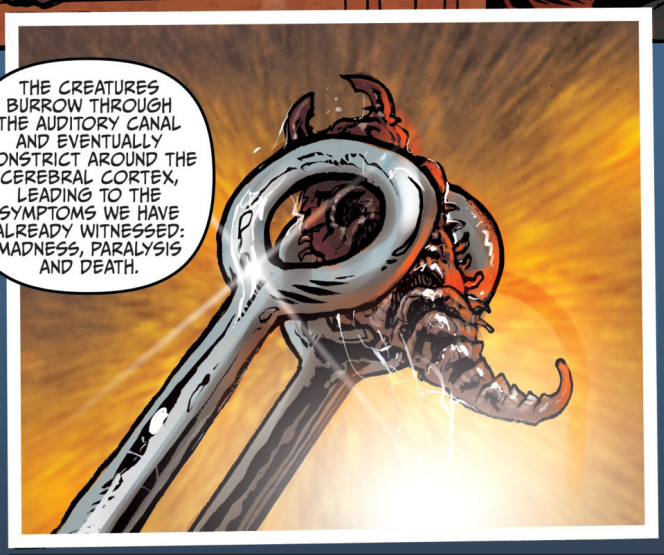
LATER...
I TELL YOU, NOW IS THE TIME.
BUT HE IS MOVING FORWARD NOW...
NOT FAST ENOUGH.
WHAT WE SEE NOW IS ONLY REACTION, NOT LEADERSHIP.
IF WE EVER HOPE TO ESCAPE THIS HELL, BOLD MANEUVERS ARE NECESSARY. RISKS MUST BE TAKEN. HE IS NOT WILLING. IT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE CLEAR.
KHAN IS AN OBSTACLE TO OUR DELIVERANCE: ONE THAT MUST BE REMOVED.

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE IT BE DONE?
IT WILL NOT BE ONE OF US. IT CANNOT. KHAN WOULD NEVER LOWER HIS GUARD, EVEN FOR A MOMENT.
THERE IS ONLY ONE FOR WHOM HE WOULD LOWER IT...
YOU DON'T MEAN MCGIVERS?
MY GOD, TAMAS, EVEN YOU WOULDN'T CONSIDER—
SHE IS NOT ONE OF US!
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY. THIS IS WHAT MUST BE DONE...

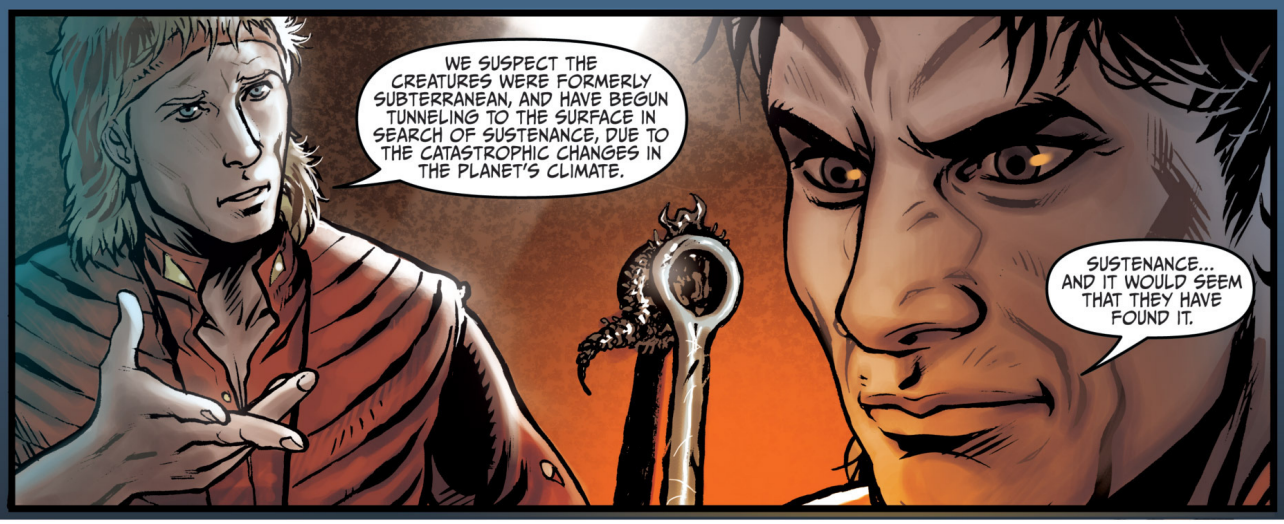
THIS WAY. AS MANY AS THE SPACE CAN HOLD.
HOW MANY IS IT NOW, JOACHIM?
FIVE ARE DEAD. FOURTEEN MORE ARE AFFLICTED.
THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS MADE, SIR. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE DISCOVERED THE SOURCE OF THE ILLNESS.

WHAT *IS* THAT...?

IT SLITHERED FROM THE EAR OF ONE OF THE VICTIMS AFTER HIS PASSING. WHEN WE REALIZED IT, WE PERFORMED AUTOPSIES ON THE OTHER DEAD, AND DISCOVERED THESE... ***EELS*** IN THEIR BODIES AS WELL.


THE CREATURES BURROW THROUGH THE AUDITORY CANAL AND EVENTUALLY CONSTRICT AROUND THE CEREBRAL CORTEX, LEADING TO THE SYMPTOMS WE HAVE ALREADY WITNESSED: MADNESS, PARALYSIS AND DEATH.

SO MUCH MISERY, FROM SO SMALL A SOURCE...
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM?
WE'RE NOT SURE YET, SIR.

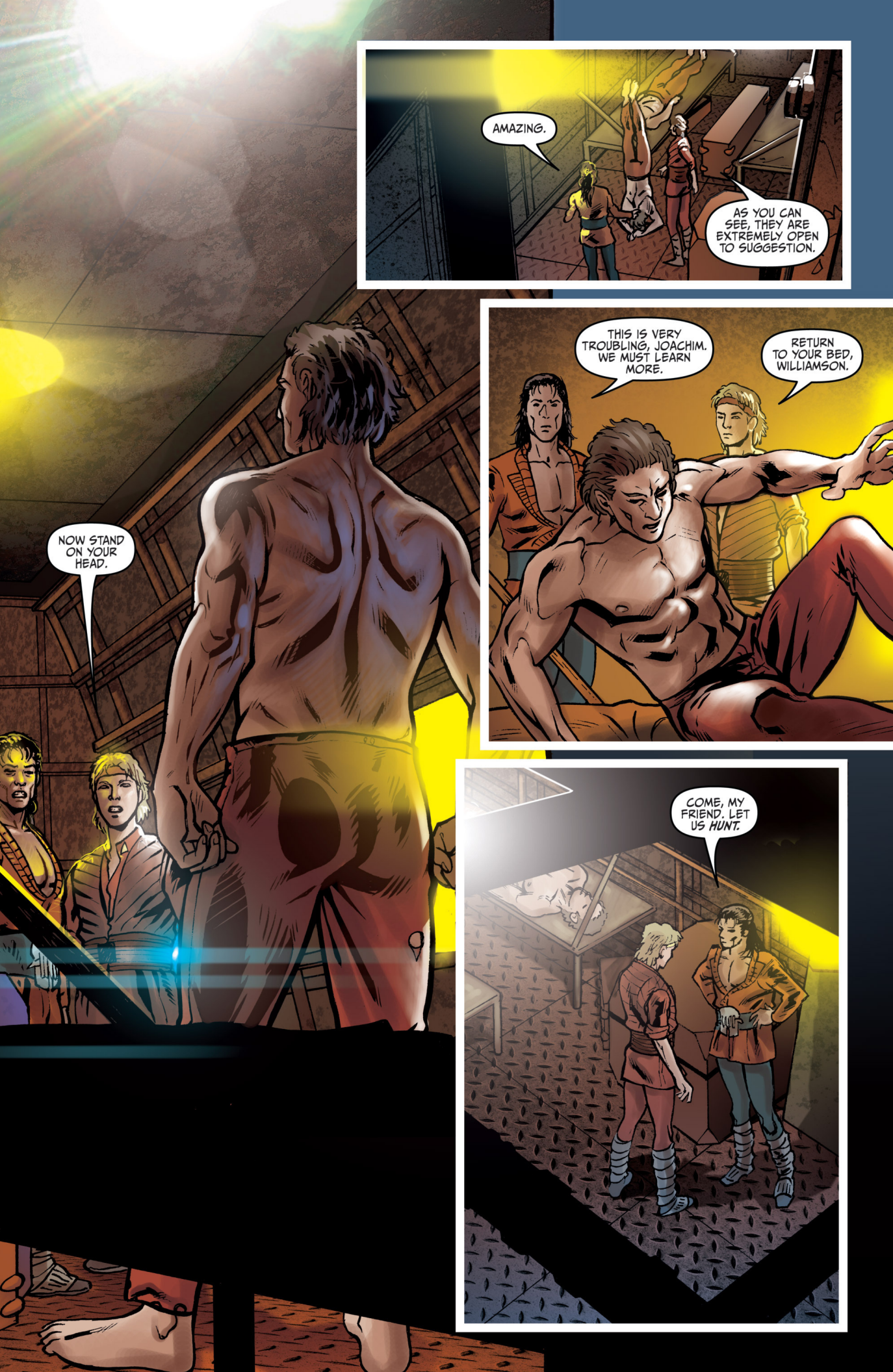

WE SUSPECT THE CREATURES WERE FORMERLY SUBTERRANEAN, AND HAVE BEGUN TUNNELING TO THE SURFACE IN SEARCH OF SUSTENANCE, DUE TO THE CATASTROPHIC CHANGES IN THE PLANET'S CLIMATE.
SUSTENANCE... AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY HAVE FOUND IT.

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THE SAMPLES WE HAVE RECOVERED ARE STILL IN A LARVAL STAGE, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS A MOTHER CREATURE OF SOME KIND WE HAVE NOT SEEN YET.

IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE AFFLICTION, THERE APPEARS TO BE AN INTERESTING SIDE-EFFECT.

INTERESTING, YOU SAY?

WATCH, SIR. WILLIAMSON! STAND UP!


AMAZING.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY ARE EXTREMELY OPEN TO SUGGESTION.
THIS IS VERY TROUBLING, JOACHIM. WE MUST LEARN MORE.
RETURN TO YOUR BED, WILLIAMSON.
NOW STAND ON YOUR HEAD.
COME, MY FRIEND. LET US *HUNT.*

WHAA—?!

MMPH MMPH
MMPH MMPH
SOON...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! WHERE AM I?
DO YOU LIKE IT? I DISCOVERED IT ON ONE OF THE HUNTING EXPEDITIONS. IT LACKS THE CREATURE COMFORTS OF THE CARGO CONTAINERS, BUT OFFERS OTHER ADVANTAGES. AS FOR WHAT I AM DOING? ONLY WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

TAMAS, THINK THIS THROUGH. YOU KNOW KHAN WILL KILL YOU FOR THIS. IT NEEDN'T GO ANY FURTHER.
YOU, LIEUTENANT MCGIVERS, WILL BE THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION.
I PROMISE, IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.
NO! DON'T DO THIS! FOR GOD'S SAKE, TAMAS!
GEOFF, WOULD YOU HOLD HER HEAD, PLEASE? THANK YOU.
AAAAAAAAAAAA

ELSEWHERE...
...THERE...

—I SAID, WHAT DO YOU SEE?
DAMN THESE SANDSTORMS. JOACHIM, IS THIS WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
HERE, SIR! THEY COME UP FROM THE GROUND, AS I TOLD YOU...
WATCH OUT!
SKREE
PERHAPS NOW WE WILL BEGIN TO FIND THE ANSWERS WE SEEK...

DO YOU SEE THE LARVAE, INCUBATING BETWEEN THE RIDGES ON ITS BACK? THOSE ARE THE YOUNG THAT BURROW INTO THE EAR, FOR WARMTH AND NOURISHMENT, I WOULD ASSUME.
PERHAPS WITH THIS SPECIMEN, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVISE SOME SORT OF TREATMENT.
DO WHATEVER YOU CAN, JOACHIM. IF NOTHING ELSE, WE WILL NOW BE ON GUARD AGAINST FURTHER ATTACKS.
GRRR GRRAGH

THE CONDITION WORSENS DRAMATICALLY AT THIS STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. I WONDER IF WE MIGHT FIND SOME WAY TO FORCE THE PARASITES TO LEAVE...
THE DIFFICULTY LIES IN OUR LIMITED RESOURCES. EVEN HERBAL REMEDIES ARE NOW LOST TO US, AND I'M HESITANT TO WASTE MORE WATER IN REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO FLUSH THEM OUT. WITH THE EEL SO DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE BRAIN, I HAVE VERY LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.
AGREED. AND SURGERY IS UNDOUBTEDLY A RISKY PROPOSITION.
UNDER THESE CONDITIONS? TANTAMOUNT TO MURDER.
NO!

SIR! WATCH OUT!
THUD
MARLA! WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?
I MUST OBEY, KHAN. I MUST... I DO NOT WANT TO, BUT...
SHE'S BEEN INFECTED, SIR. I'M SORRY.
CAN ANYTHING BE DONE? MY WIFE...
I... I DON'T KNOW.

HOURS PASS...
...AND PASS...
HOLD ON...
AAAGHHHH
UNTIL...
SHE'S GONE, SIR. I'M SORRY.
NO...
NO!
WHAM
THIS... WAS NO ACCIDENT, JOACHIM. THIS... THIS WAS DONE TO ME. TO HER. MY WIFE WAS TAKEN FROM ME.

A DELIBERATE ASSAULT, JOACHIM. PERPETRATED BY DESIGN.
SIR?
AND YET THEY MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE THEIR ATTEMPT WOULD FAIL. WHAT, THEN, WOULD BE THEIR GOAL?
QUICKLY, JOACHIM. LET US DETERMINE OUR FOE'S MERIT.

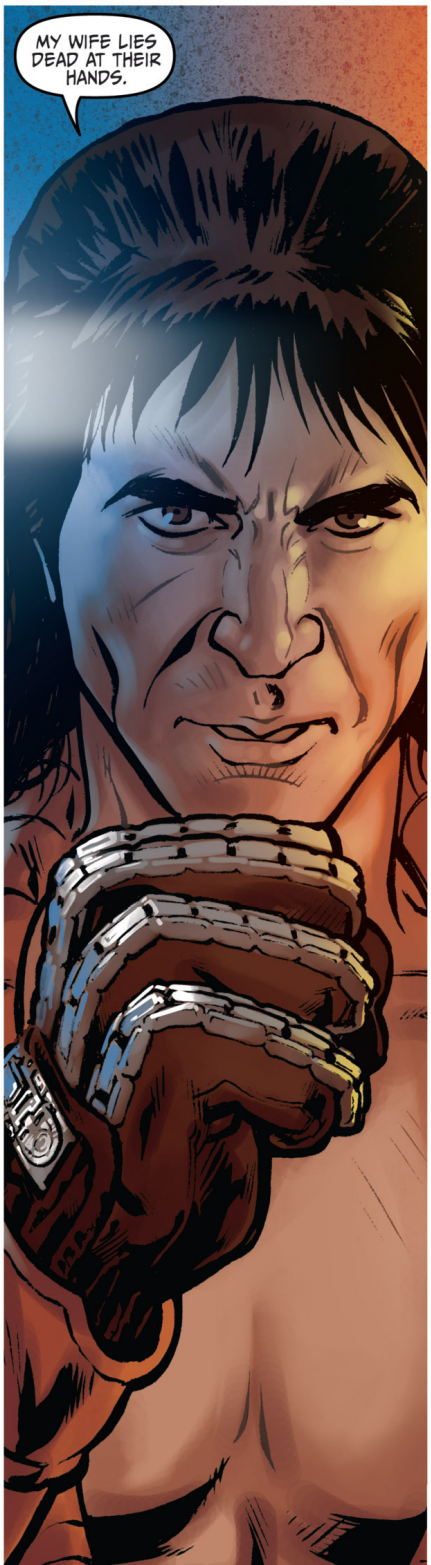
THE POWER GENERATOR!
IT IS THE ONLY THING THEY WOULD VALUE ON THIS GODFORSAKEN ROCK. THEY HAVE TAKEN IT. THEY HAVE TAKEN IT AND THEY HAVE TAKEN FROM ME THE ONLY PERSON THAT TRULY MATTERED.

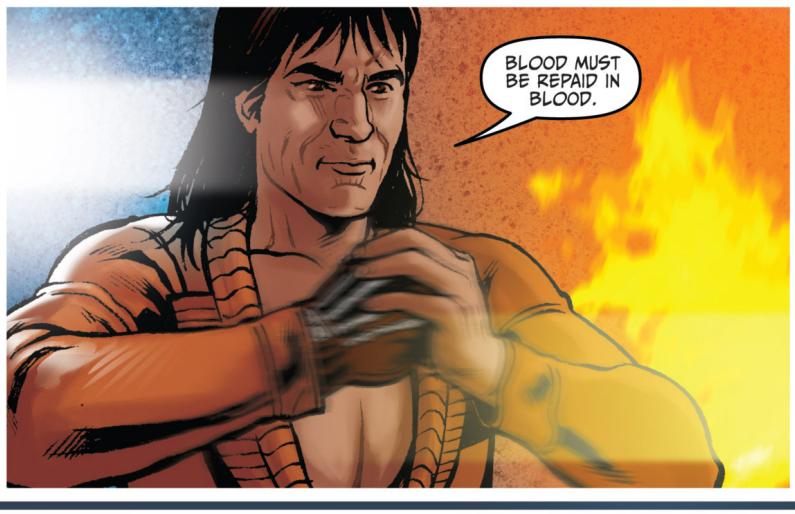
WHO HAS DONE THIS? TAMAS...?!
TAMAS AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THEY HAVE SHOWN THEIR TRUE COLORS. BETRAYED US. SHATTERED THE BONDS OF LOYALTY SWORN TO ME TWO CENTURIES AGO.
IT IS WAR, THEN.

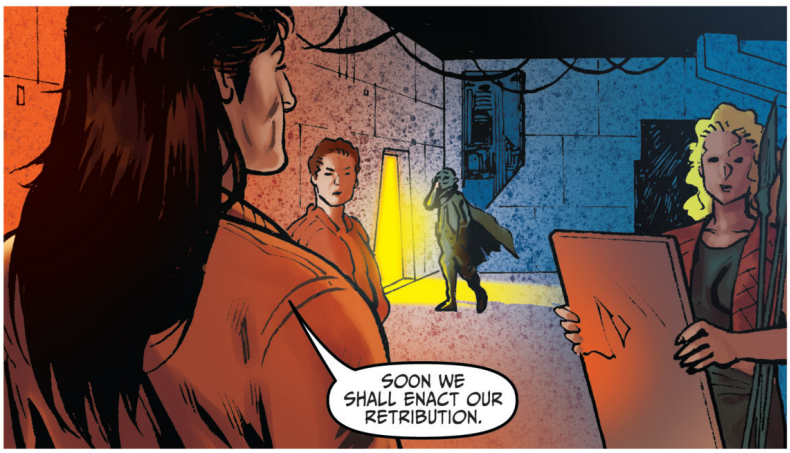
KLANG!
4
CHAPTER
KLANG!
GOOD...

SIR, WE HAVE FINISHED THE SPEARS. THERE ARE ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US, WITH AMPLE REPLACEMENTS.
EXCELLENT, FLYNN.
SIR? YOU ORDERED THE MANUFACTURE OF SHIELDS, BUT WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING SUFFICIENT RAW MATERIAL—
KRRRRRRK!
UNDERSTOOD, SIR.

WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED. TAMAS AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE STABBED US IN THE BACK.


MY WIFE LIES DEAD AT THEIR HANDS.


BLOOD MUST BE REPAID IN BLOOD.


SOON WE SHALL ENACT OUR RETRIBUTION.

SOON...

THIS IS YOUR FAULT, TAMAS! YOU PUSHED HIM TOO FAR!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, GEOFF! WE KNEW THERE WOULD BE RISKS! AND SO WHAT IF HE MOVES AGAINST US? HAVE YOU SO LITTLE CONFIDENCE?
HE HAS MOBILIZED ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AGAINST US, TAMAS! EVEN NOW THEY PREPARE FEVERISHLY FOR WAR!
LET THEM PREPARE! THIS WAR WAS DECLARED THE MOMENT KHAN ALLOWED KIRK TO DEFEAT HIM AND DESERT US HERE!

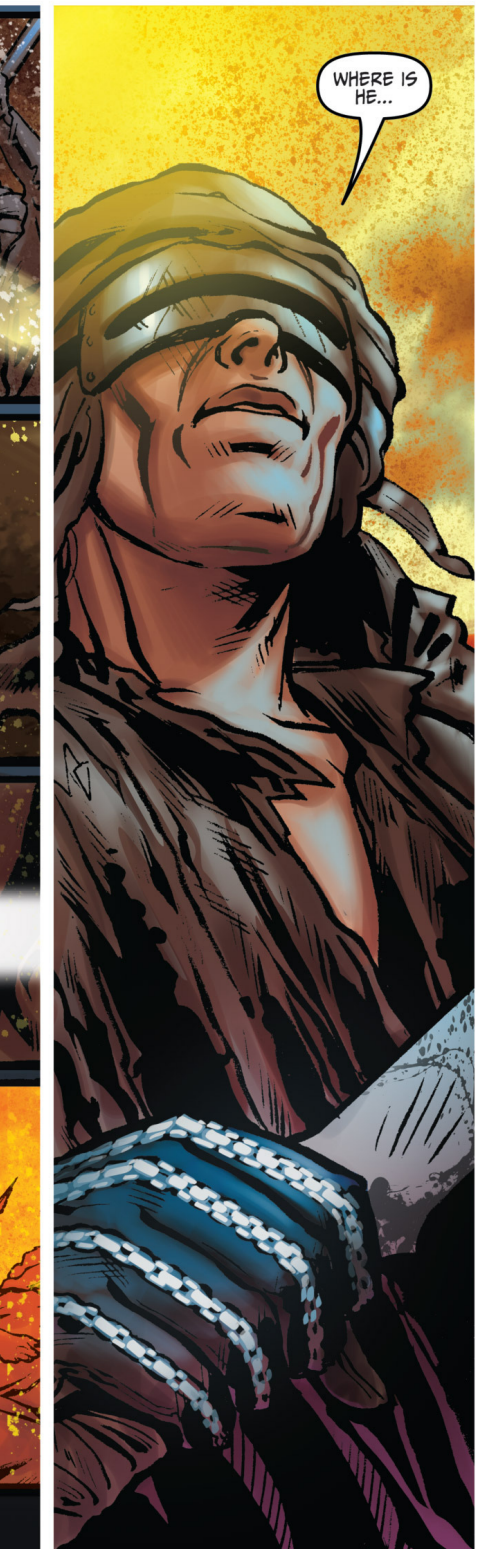
KNOK!
WHAT WAS THAT?
THERE HE GOES. PROBABLY JOACHIM.
THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOW.
WELL, THEN. THEY'LL BE HERE SOON. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

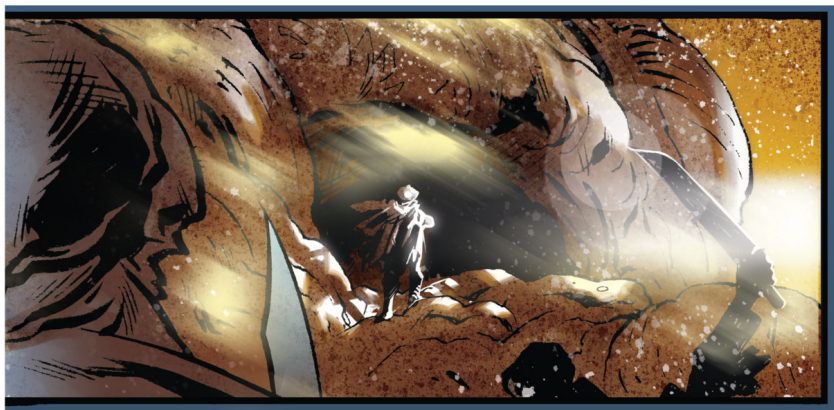
KOFF KOFF
I'M TIRED OF THIS WAITING GAME ANYWAY. WE'RE READY.
I DON'T WANT US TO GET TRAPPED INSIDE THIS CAVE WHEN THE BATTLE STARTS. WE NEED TO ENGAGE THEM IN THE OPEN.
I AGREE.
THE TIME IS UPON US. WE MUST IMMEDIATELY PREPARE FOR WHAT WE ALL KNEW WAS INEVITABLE. IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE, WE MUST ELIMINATE THE FINAL OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH: KHAN.

COME, LET US READY OURSELVES QUICKLY. THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH THEM OFF GUARD.
A FEW WORDS, IF I MAY, BEFORE WE HEAD OUT.
YOU HAVE HONORED ME WITH YOUR LOYALTY. TAMAS AND HIS FOLLOWERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE SHOWN ONLY WEAKNESS AND FEAR IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.
ONLY COWARDS WOULD LAUNCH THE CRAVEN ATTACK ON MY WIFE; ONLY COWARDS WOULD ENGAGE IN THE PETTY THEFT OF OUR REMAINING POWER CONVERTER. SUCH MEN ARE NOT WORTHY OF OUR GENETICALLY ENHANCED HERITAGE.
LET US FINISH THIS NOW. WE SHALL PUT AN END TO THIS CONFLICT BY DESTROYING THE TRAITORS AMONG US. THEN WE WILL FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE THIS HELLISH SITUATION IN WHICH WE NOW FIND OURSELVES.
EVENTUALLY, I FIRMLY BELIEVE, WE WILL SEE OUR OPPORTUNITY. EITHER THE CONDITIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT HERE WILL IMPROVE OVER TIME, OR EVENTS WILL OCCUR THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ESCAPE THIS MISERY.
PERHAPS ONE DAY STARFLEET WILL FINALLY BECOME CURIOUS ABOUT OUR PROGRESS AND SEE FIT TO PAY US A VISIT. EITHER WAY, UNTIL THAT DAY, I WILL STAND WITH YOU.
KHAN!
WILL YOU STAND WITH ME?
KHAN!

ADVANCE!

WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE! PRESS FORWARD!


WHERE IS HE...



THERE.

FINISH THE WORK HERE, JOACHIM. TAMAS IS MINE.

SHOW YOURSELF, TAMAS.
WE BOTH KNOW I WILL FIND YOU.
RRAGHH!

KRAK
UNGH!
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, KHAN. YOUR OBSESSION WITH THAT WOMAN AND YOUR WEAKNESS ALLOWED KIRK TO MAROON US HERE! YOU DESERVE THIS, AND A THOUSAND TIMES MORE!
SHE WAS NEVER ONE OF US. BARELY THE SAME SPECIES!
AND BECAUSE OF HER WE LOST THE *ENTERPRISE*! AND YET YOU TOOK HER BACK!
ENOUGH!
KRAK

UNGH...
ENOUGH OF YOUR EXCUSES, TRAITOR.
TRAITOR?! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BETRAYED US!
WHZZZZZZZZZZ
WE DIE HERE DUE TO YOUR FAILURES!
HAAH!
YOU WERE ALWAYS SLOW, TAMAS.
—HHUCHH—

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
KRAK
IS THIS HOW YOU WOULD PROTECT US?
KRAK
WHERE HAS YOUR FALSE LEADERSHIP TAKEN YOUR PEOPLE? ONLY TO THE GRAVE.
KRAK
YOU WERE BETTER THAN THIS, TAMAS. THEFT? MURDER? YOU SHAME US ALL.

KHAN!
JOACHIM. THEN THE BATTLE IS ENDED?
YES, SIR. TAMAS' FORCES ARE DEFEATED, TO THE LAST OF THEM.
HOW MANY CASUALTIES AMONG US?
FIVE FELL IN BATTLE. THIRTEEN MORE ARE WOUNDED, BUT SHOULD SURVIVE.
GOOD, GOOD. NOT NEARLY AS MANY AS I HAD FEARED.
AAGGH!

YOU WERE SAYING, JOACHIM?

YOU HAVE PREVAILED, SIR. YOURS IS THE SUPERIOR INTELLECT.

NOW WE SEE WHERE THEY WERE HIDING! THESE CAVES...

NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT IN HERE, BUT LOOK AT THE RESOURCES FOR THE TAKING. MUSHROOMS AND OTHER FUNGUS FOR FOOD, CLEAR RUNNING WATER...

THIS IS EXCELLENT. OUR SURVIVAL IS ENSURED! WE NOW HAVE ANOTHER SURVIVABLE HABITAT ALONG WITH THE CARGO CONTAINERS, AND A RENEWABLE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WATER!

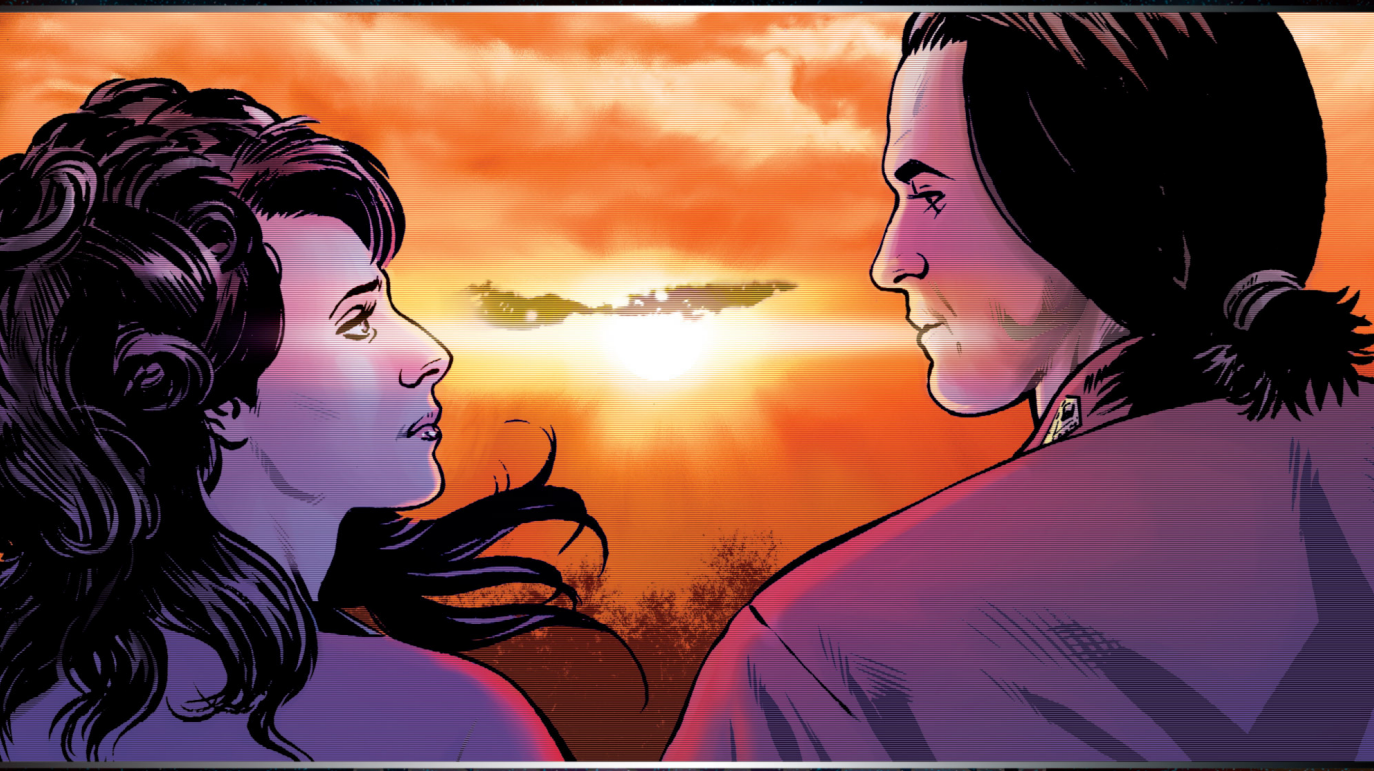
LATER...
SIR?
AN IRONIC APPROPRIATION, JOACHIM.
BETTER TO WEAR THIS AROUND MY NECK THAN HAVE TO SEE IT MOCKING ME UPON OUR EVERY RETURN.
IF WE ARE DESTINED TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN REFUSE DISCARDED BY STARFLEET, THEN LET US LOOK THE PART.

DAYS GROW INTO MONTHS...
AND MONTHS...
...GROW INTO YEARS.
Paradise Lost
BOTANY BAY

ARE YOU SEEING THAT, SIR?

YES. YES, I AM... WHAT *IS* THAT? WE MUST HURRY!

IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS, SIR?
IT IS INDEED, JOACHIM. IT IS OUR DELIVERANCE.
COME, MY FRIEND. LET US GREET OUR GUESTS.
END.



ART GALLERY

KHAN PLUSH TOY RETAILER INCENTIVE

art by Michael Stribling

art by Joe Corroney

art by Michael Stribling

ART BY MICHAEL STRIBLING

ART BY MICHAEL STRIBLING

STAR TREK®

KHAN

RULING IN HELL

When the most infamous villain in ***Star Trek*** history is last seen in the Original Series episode "Space Seed," Khan Noonien Singh is an elegant, proud warrior-king. When he's next seen in ***Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan***, he's a grizzled maniac, twisted by loss and an unquenchable thirst for revenge. What has happened between these two points in time to so radically alter what seemed to be an unbreakable will?

IDW™